

Honda will build new car for Europe after Rover deal

By David Young

ROVER and Honda of Japan have formally completed the deal which gives each company a 20 per cent share in the other and have disclosed that Honda is to build a new range of cars in the United Kingdom aimed at the single European market of 1992.

The car, which will be developed in two distinct versions – one a Rover with more emphasis on the traditional trappings of walnut and leather and the other a Honda – will be built at Swindon, Wiltshire.

The new cars will meet all European regulations concerning the degree of local content, but inevitably it will lead to complaints from European manufacturers who are already concerned about Nissan and Toyota building cars in Britain to get round import restrictions.

Construction work on the new £300 million car manufacturing plant is already well advanced and Honda has started recruiting to increase its present staff at Swindon from 470 to 1,770.

The new car is likely to be a development of the Honda Accord, a medium-sized car

which will bridge the gap between the existing small-to-medium ranges and the larger executive cars which have already been jointly developed by the two companies.

Rover builds Honda Concerto, a car which is broadly similar to the Rover 200 series, for the European market, and Honda markets the Ballade, a car which is similar to Rover's successful new 400 series.

The two companies also produce an executive car, Rover as the 800, Honda as the Legend.

However the Accord, which is the best selling car in the United States where it is built locally by Honda, has been hampered from increasing its market share in Europe because of import restrictions.

Honda has plans to meet demand for some versions by bringing in US-built cars to supplement sales of the Japanese-built models which have gained a reputation for their reliability and technical prowess.

The new cars will have body panels produced by Rover at Longbridge. Most engines and gear-boxes in the range will

come from Honda at Swindon. Certain models will come with Rover high-performance engines and transmissions produced at Longbridge.

Rover has now formally taken a 20 per cent holding in Honda of the UK Manufacturing (HUM). Honda in return is taking 20 per cent of Rover's shares and paying £30 million in cash to bring the value of the share exchanges to the same level.

The move does little more than cement the financial relations which have existed between the two companies for the past 10 years, Rover executives have privately conceded.

Each company will have one non-executive director on the other company's board. Mr Shoichiro Irimajiri, Honda's senior managing director, will join the Rover board while Mr John Towers, product development director of Rover, will sit on the HUM board.

The collaboration between Honda and Rover dates back to 1979, when they entered an agreement enabling Rover to manufacture cars under licence from Honda.

AN ARMY armoured car stands by as a road is closed yesterday while a bomb squad works on explosives left over from the Second World War (Tom Giles writes). More than 3,000 people on the Riverview Park Estate were told in January that their homes could be damaged and lives put at risk if work to dispose of the explosives, placed under a former landing strip, went wrong. Kent County Council, the police and 58 Royal Engineers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit at Chatham, agreed to set up an exclusion zone around the 1,100-house estate after the bombs were

traced by army metal detectors last summer. Operation Crabbie will continue for the next five days, with road blocks set up and streets fenced from the area. The explosives were intended to destroy the strip in the event of a German invasion.

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Residents ignore bomb squad warning

JAMES GRAY



in to defuse 15 pipe explosives left over from the Second World War (Tom Giles writes). More than 3,000 people on the Riverview Park Estate were told in January that their homes could be damaged and lives put at risk if work to dispose of the explosives, placed under a former landing strip, went wrong. Kent County Council, the police and 58 Royal Engineers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit at Chatham, agreed to set up an exclusion zone around the 1,100-house estate after the bombs were

traced by army metal detectors last summer. Operation Crabbie will continue for the next five days, with road blocks set up and streets fenced from the area. The explosives were intended to destroy the strip in the event of a German invasion.

Iraq 'gun' firm tells of worry on new order

By Craig Seton

ONE of the companies at the centre of the Iraqi "supergun" allegations said yesterday that the Iraq Ministry of Industry asked it only two weeks ago to proceed "immediately" with another order for a component that the company feared might be used as a positioning or aiming device.

Eagle Trust, the parent company of Walter Somers Ltd, a forgermaster in Halesowen, West Midlands, disclosed that it had initiated talks to warn the Department of Trade and Industry about the new order from Iraq on April 9, only two days before Customs and Excise officers seized what they believed to be the barrel of a "supergun" on board a merchant ship on Teesside, ready for shipment to Iraq.

It was believed yesterday that Eagle Trust may have alerted the department about the new order after publicity about 40 nuclear trigger devices bound for Iraq that were seized at Heathrow a week earlier.

Eagle Trust said yesterday that, by last month, Walter Somers had already supplied Iraq with over 120 metres of pipes, with an internal diameter of 350mm. It had also supplied hydraulic equipment.

Labour is to press for an emergency statement in the Commons today over the Teesside discovery (Richard Ford writes).

The Opposition wants Mr Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary, to come to the Commons to answer questions about the tubes seized.

Yesterday, Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, demanded an end to the Department of Trade and Industry's "inexcusable silence and evasion" over the the affair.



Mr Brown: official silence must be ended

Whips try to curb Hong Kong revolt

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVE Party whips will today embark on a final attempt to limit the size of the expected backbench rebellion over the Government's plans to grant passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families.

The Government seems assured of a reasonably comfortable majority tomorrow when the Commons debates the second reading of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill.

However, the business managers remained unsure last night how many of the 80 or so Conservative MPs who have expressed alarm about the proposals would vote against a Bill on which Mrs Thatcher has staked so much authority.

The whips believe Mr Norman Tebbit, the leading Tory rebel on the issue, may have lost some support because of his decision last month of his readiness to stand in a

leadership election if Mrs Thatcher stood down before the next election.

Their objective is to secure as large a majority as possible on the principle of the Bill. This would strengthen the Government's ability to see off the inevitable procedural attempts to block the Bill as it passes through the Commons.

The Government could face its closest votes over the attempt to force all stages of the Bill on to the floor of the Commons, and over the guillotine: it will have to introduce to cut debate on the latter stages.

It seems assured of a majority approaching 40 on the second reading because of the votes of the 22 Liberal Democrats and Social Democrats, up to 20 Labour MPs who are unwilling to back the leadership line of opposing the Bill.

Parkinson seeks extra £400m to end flight delays

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE Treasury is to be asked to approve plans by the Civil Aviation Authority to spend an additional £400 million on capital projects over the next decade in an effort by Europe to end delays and congestion in the skies.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, will outline the proposal in Paris next week when he meets his opposite numbers from 22 European countries in an attempt to set a timetable for the harmonization of air traffic control and the standardization of radars and other vital equipment.

Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "We do not have time to waste. I expect to see full agreement on the standardization of air traffic control equipment and a detailed

timetable for complete harmonization of air traffic control based on the existing Eurocontrol structure."

Ministers represented on the European Civil Aviation Conference have been shocked by reports showing that the number of flights delayed by more than 15 minutes almost doubled between 1986 and 1989 to about 24 per cent. They have been stung by criticism that they were doing little to find a solution.

At first sight it would seem that the amount of money which has to be invested is frightening", Mr Parkinson said. "Yet in fact every country is now planning major investments in new air traffic control measures."

In Britain alone the CAA has now told me that its capital expenditure budget is more than a billion pounds.

Industry turns to democratic dinner

By Nicholas Watt

THE dispute at a British Aerospace plant over a new canteen in which the management and the rest of the workforce are encouraged to munch their sausage and mash together is the teething trouble of a relatively recent innovation for Britain.

The position of management and unions at BAe's plant at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, remained unchanged last night after a meeting between the two sides

without success.

BAe maintained that the £400 being paid to managers to use the canteen was to make up the difference between their old and new food subsidies. The company rejected union demands to pay similar sums to the 1,500 manual workers at the plant, saying that there was no change in their working conditions.

There used to be a time when most employees ate in rooms according to whether they were paid monthly or weekly, and at the department store Barwick's of Kensington the management simply could not eat without being shielded behind a cardboard cut-out complete with lace curtains.

However, after the 1971 Industrial Relations Code of Practice recommended the abolition of separate canteens,

things began to change, though not without some resistance.

Ford still has segregated canteens at many of its plants, and a union official reported that one manager said that combined canteen facilities would be introduced over his dead body. However, a spokesman for the company said that where workers wanted the new canteens, they would be provided. The union official said they had been asking for them for years, without success.

BAe's Kingston plant was fiercely criticized in a 1981 trade union report for operating a "blatant caste system". A spokesman said yesterday that until a few years ago there were three canteens, two of them next to each other.

Mr Ron Barwood, of the British branch of the European Catering Association, said: "There are not as many single-status restaurants in companies as you might think. But we are better than France, though not as advanced as West Germany."

A spokesman for the Institute of Directors said: "We do not find great hostility to single-status canteens."

"Whether they're installed is a matter of the companies getting round to it."

Slimmer of Year 'falsely endorsed product for £1,000'

A WOMAN named "Young Slimmer of the Year" had never used the "miracle" product that she publicly claimed had helped her lose 12 stone in one year, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Customers who sent money to Miss Michele Deakin's home and ordered the guar gum-based "Deakin Diet" never received the promised wonder granules. It was alleged.

Mr Peter Foster, who faces trial over the diet drink Bai Lin Tea, persuaded Miss Michele Deakin to claim that she had lost 12 stones by taking a special powder, and allegedly offered to pay her £1,000 a week for doing so.

However, Miss Deakin fell foul of "Slimmer Magazine" after endorsing the Deakin Diet on national television.

Mr Neil Flewitt, for the prosecution, said the magazine stripped her of the "1988 Young Slimmer of the Year" title, saying the award was only given to people who lost weight naturally.

Subsequently, hundreds of people who had sent off for the Deakin Diet began to complain after receiving nothing in return for their cheques.

Miss Deakin, aged 21, of Darnall Drive, Wavertree, Merseyside, denies conspiring with Mr Foster and others to sell a dieting and weight loss aid, advertised with a false trade description.

Mr Flewitt added that Mr Foster was due to stand trial in 1988 at Warwick Crown Court on similar charges. "He fled to America and is believed to be on the Cayman Islands."

Mr Flewitt said Miss Deakin, weighed 22½ stone when she was 17. But in just over a year, entirely due to her own efforts, she had slimmed down to 10½ stone. In January 1988, on the day after she had received the award from the magazine, she had received a telephone call from Mr Foster.

"He claimed he was involved with all the stars and he offered to assist her with the publication of her diet," Mr Flewitt said.

Mr Flewitt said a diet was not good enough, she needed a product to encourage it. He gave an example of his success, mentioning Bai Lin tea, which was endorsed by the model Samantha Fox." At a

London meeting with Mr Foster, Mr Kit Miller, his associate, and two others, Miss Deakin was offered £1,000 a week to promote a product, which Foster had available. The four arranged a TV appearance on *Daytime Live*, in which Deakin spoke to a script she later claimed was prepared by Miller.

She was telling the audience that her weight loss was entirely due to her taking the Deakin Diet. That was a lie, plain and simple," Mr Flewitt said.

Miss Deakin had told viewers that the powder, supposedly a new invention, had been developed by a factory near her home.

In advertising literature, she had also claimed that the manufacturers had asked her to be the guinea pig, "even though I looked more like an elephant".

Miss Deakin has since gained back much weight.

The powder was in fact guar gum, previously launched by Foster as MRA30.

The court was told that more than £24,000 was found to have been taken in orders for the Deakin Diet. "But there were probably a lot more orders," Mr Flewitt said.

Mr Flewitt, prosecuting on behalf of Knowsley Borough Council's Trading Standards Department, added: "Somebody has made a lot of money out of this scheme."

The trial continues today.

two thought he was her brother. A few were under the impression he was the President of the United States, but then there were others who thought the same of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Two fifths of the children knew of Mr Salman Rushdie, although some thought he had written *The Titanic Verses*, one thought he was what you got if you did not cook meat properly, and another begged his bets: "He is a fish or a prime minister."

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More than nine-tenths could explain

the term "fast forward", more than half knew what a mortgage was, and 46 per cent had the gas of the term poll tax. "We mortgage our house if we can't pay our poll tax," one precocious child said.

Just over a fifth knew what an E-number was, but only 17 per cent could cope with the EEC, which was confused with the NEC (National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham), the CFC gases, a PC, and the RAC. One child thought it stood for Easy Education for Children, which would have to come from television supposedly, because no fewer than 98 per cent of the respondents were in no doubt about Kylie Minogue.

And Des Clarke? Well, ask a child of nine and they will tell you he is a star in the soap opera *Neighbours*.



Steady eye: Lizzy Bone, aged 8, learning the secrets of plate-spinning at a circus workshop held for children at Jubilee Hall, Covent Garden, London, yesterday

Jackson backs jail review call

THE Rev Jesse Jackson, the US Democratic politician and civil rights campaigner, yesterday pledged his support to the campaign for a review of the case of the so-called Tottenham Three, the men jailed for life for the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock, at Broadwater Farm in 1985.

Mr Jackson said that he was determined that lessons should be learned from the mistakes made in the United States, which saw the emergence of a handful of giant airlines after deregulation.

Mr Jackson spent almost an hour with relatives, friends and members of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign, including Mr Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham.

He said he was concerned about the confessions of Engin Raghip, aged 24, Mark Braithwaite, aged 23, and Winston Silcott, aged 28, and their lack of legal representation in custody.

Mr Jackson was in Britain for the Nelson Mandela concert.

Holy landing

From next month atlantic flights will be permitted to land at Knock, Ireland's "Holy Airport" built on a hillside bog in County Mayo. Previously all flights, including charters, had first to land at Shannon.

Miss Kathleen Tacci-Morris, aged 93, a peace campaigner and a former ballerina, is providing in her will that her £300,000 mansion at North Curry, Somerset, should become an international exchange centre to be used by students from the Soviet Union. She said: "I just want to spread peace after I peg it."

Inquests reopen

Inquests into the deaths of the 95 people who died in the Hillsborough disaster will resume in Sheffield today, a year after Britain's worst sporting disaster. It is expected that the hearing will take up to three weeks.

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Papers for blind

The Royal National Institute for the Blind is testing a digital newspaper system by which text is transmitted over the independent television network to a blind person's home where it can be "read" by a special computer program.

Cash no obstacle to Queen's visit

By Alan Hamilton

THE question being asked in Windsor yesterday was, who is the Keeper of the Queen's Bollards?

Although Her Majesty's family have tended to favour other, newer, schools, she nonetheless intends to grace the 550th anniversary celebrations of Eton College with her presence on May 29. Unfortunately her direct route from Windsor Castle to the school gates, barely half a mile away, is blocked by 14 concrete posts, nine plant pots and two bollards. What was briefly at issue yesterday was who was

to pay for the temporary removal of those obstacles to allow the Queen's carriage procession to cross Windsor Bridge, closed to traffic some 20 years ago.

It was not, a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said, anything to do with them.

Further inquiries at the chief executive's office of Windsor and Maidenhead Council elicited the admission that they indeed would pay for the moving of the bollards, and that the total cost to the poll-tax payers would be between £100 and £150.

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He added, however, that the Government had received "complex and lengthy" proposals from BR, Trafalgar House, and BICC, which will build and operate the line, which would take time to "digest".

Referring to conflicting forecasts on the level of demand for Channel tunnel services, Mr Portillo said:

"There are obvious difficulties in assessing demand for a facility which has not previously been available."

He added, however, that the argument that the tax payer should subsidise rail services through the tunnel, regardless of the level of demand for such services, is groundless.

"We believe that BR are taking the right way forward, planning to meet the demonstrated, commercially viable, needs of those wishing to travel or transport their goods by rail to the continent."

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Subsidy for channel rail link ruled out by minister

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

MR MICHAEL Portillo, Minister for Transport, seemed yesterday to rule out any prospect of a government subsidy for construction of the £3.5 billion Channel tunnel high-speed rail link.

He told a conference on the regional consequences of the tunnel, hosted in Leeds by Kent County Council, that he rejected all calls to repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act, which prohibits use of government subsidies for international rail services.

Mr Portillo said: "Section 42 accords with the policy of successive governments, Labour as well as Conservative, that one mode of long-distance travel should not be subsidised at the expense of others."

"We see no case for treating rail services differently from sea or air services which are unsubsided. Any subsidy for international services would give British Rail an unfair advantage over competitors."

"BR already operates Inter-City and freight services commercially, without the need for financial support from the Government, and there is no reason why their international services should not enjoy similar success," he said.

The statement was greeted with astonishment by many of the delegates, particularly in light of recent speculation that the Government might consider providing a £1 billion subsidy if Kent commuter services shared the new line.

Mr Portillo refused to be drawn, however, saying only that the Government had received "complex and lengthy" proposals from BR, Trafalgar House, and BICC, which will build and operate the line, which would take time to "digest".

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"We believe that BR are taking the right way forward, planning to meet the demonstrated, commercially viable, needs of those wishing to travel or transport their goods by rail to the continent."

The fortunes of the line, one of the most scenic in Britain, have been dramatically reversed since British Rail proposed its closure for commercial reasons.

Fame clings only to Neighbours

By Robin Young

YOU DO not have to be nine or ten to know who Des Clarke is, but it helps. At any rate, nine-tenths of the 700 children asked that question in a survey by *Plus Magazine* got the answer right.

On the other hand, only 16 per cent of them could explain the term "Iron Curtain". One of them thought it was Mrs Thatcher. Fewer than a third knew of Winston Churchill. Several identified him as a character in *Ghosts* (who is actually Winston Zeddemore).

More than two-thirds knew of Mr Nelson Mandela ("the most popular prisoner for 25 years"), one wrote, but fewer than half had Mr Mikhail Gorbachev right. Some thought of him as "the Prime Minister's friend", and

two thought he was her brother. A few were under the impression he was the President of the United States, but then there were others who thought the same of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Two fifths of the children knew of Mr Salman Rushdie, although some thought he had written *The Titanic Verses*, one thought he was what you got if you did not cook meat properly, and another begged his bets: "He is a fish or a prime minister."

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The Conservatives conned us in 1979 by claiming that all we had to do was stand on our own two feet, pull our socks up and everything would be all right.

They conned us by promising a boom, an economic miracle with 'zero' inflation. In fact, it's been an economic mirage. Our inflation's now the highest in Europe, while our trade deficit is the worst in our history.

They conned us by suggesting that government has no role to play in industry. 'Sink or swim' was their motto. And many of our industries sank without trace. (Now even Jaguar's owned by the Americans.) In fact, our share of world manufactured trade has fallen by 25% in the last ten years.

They conned us by introducing so-called Youth Training Schemes. But they don't seem to have trained or taught anyone anything. All they did was make the unemployment figures look a bit better and give businesses the opportunity to use cheap, unskilled labour. On average, a German company spends fourteen times more on training than its British counterpart. What's more, expenditure on training is to be cut again: by £100m in 1990 and by £200m in 1991.

They conned us by promising to put more money in our pockets. Instead, runaway interest rates have emptied our pockets. In fact, interest rates have increased eleven times in the last eighteen months to become higher than those of any of our European competitors.

They conned us by promising to cut taxation. In reality, we pay more tax now than we did in 1979.

They conned us by promising to protect the homeowner. People got their dream homes. Things began to look rosy. But record mortgage rates soon turned their dream into a nightmare. Thousands of families are now living at subsistence level with evictions running at an all-time high.

Amazingly, they even conned their own staunchest supporters. The combination of soaring interest rates and huge rate increases in the shape of the new Uniform Business Rate ('Poll Tax for Businesses') means that businesses are going to the wall faster than at any time since the Depression.

They conned us by pretending to be the upholders of family values. But they have actually cut child benefit and pensions in real terms, pushing the families that depend on them most even deeper into poverty and debt.

They conned us with their promises to make the rates system fairer. But nothing could be more unfair than the hated Poll Tax which, again, penalises those with more mouths to feed. To add insult to injury, the Conservatives claimed that the average contribution would be £278. In reality, it's £363.

They conned us by promising our children a better education, perhaps the cruellest con of all. Their savage cost-cutting measures mean that nearly 4,000 teaching vacancies remain unfilled.

They conned us by saying the health service would be safe in their hands but 468 hospitals have closed since 1979 and almost a million people are waiting for treatment.

They conned us again by claiming to be the party of law and order. In fact, our streets are now more dangerous than ever.

But we can do something to stop the rot.

We can invest money in our own industries instead of selling them off to the highest bidder.

We can invest in training our youngsters properly.

We can start to attract more and better teachers by paying them a decent salary.

We can follow the example of Germany, France and Japan where government works in partnership with business and not against it.

We can help to put an end to the 'us and them' attitude that's held our country back.

We can build a prosperous future for all of our people.

But we can only do it with your support and your vote.

LABOUR. THE PEOPLE WHO CAN, NOT THE PEOPLE WHO CON.

Private firms may take over running of remand hostels

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

BAIL hostels and accommodation for recently released prisoners may be privatized while probation officers concentrate on other work, under Home Office proposals.

An expanded probation service would prepare reports for courts, monitor compliance of court orders and tackle offending behaviour. Some other duties would be contracted out to voluntary bodies or the private sector, using competitive tendering.

The Home Office says the new approach could save money and improve standards of service. However, many probation officers and some voluntary organizations regard the idea with suspicion.

Ministers think the independent sector could broaden its activities in crime prevention, prisoner welfare and providing specialist services under non-custodial sentences as well as breaking into new areas such as bail hostel management.

A number of companies have voiced interest in running bail hostels, most of which are managed by probation officers.

The Home Office also wants

to see greater co-operation between the criminal justice agencies. Committees with representatives from the police, courts, probation service and voluntary bodies could analyse local crime patterns and suggest solutions.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said he hoped probation officers would concentrate on their three main tasks, which would "assume greater importance under plans to increase community punishment".

"We want to encourage further developments, not just to allow skilled probation resources to be released for more intensive work, but to put to maximum use the skills and valuable experience of voluntary and private sector bodies", he said. Getting probation officers to ensure that someone in a bail hostel ate three meals a day and made his bed each morning was a waste of expertise.

Instead, they should have overall responsibility for the supervision of probation or community service programmes, monitoring standards, retaining the power to

report breaches of orders, and conducting therapy designed to prevent re-offending. Voluntary organizations could provide job training, health education or community reparation projects.

The National Association for Probation Officers said: "This will have a detrimental effect on the work the probation service does for offenders and courts and will lead to fragmentation."

Miss Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said voluntary organizations had to complement, not replace the probation service.

"Such concepts as competitive tendering, time-limited contracts and uncertain, short-term funding would play havoc with the quality of services."

The idea, however, received support from the Association of Chief Officers of Probation which agreed that a "broad approach" was needed. "It is good to hear confirmation from Government that different approaches should be tried in different locations, tailored to local needs."

More against NHS reforms

By Thomson Prentiss, Science Correspondent

PUBLIC opposition to the Government's health service reforms has reached new heights, according to an opinion poll published yesterday by the British Medical Association.

The Gallup poll shows that 77 per cent of people who are aware of the proposed reforms disapprove of them. That is 6 per cent more than a similar poll in January, and the highest proportion recorded in five surveys carried out since last summer.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA Council, said yesterday: "The new poll shows beyond any doubt that the Government has failed utterly to convince the public

about its reforms. Ministers and their supporters have tried for a year to get their theories accepted, with conspicuous lack of success."

Gallup interviewed 853 people, of whom 567 were aware of the reforms. The poll shows that, of this number, only 11 per cent approve of them, and only 8 per cent favour their immediate implementation.

Seventy-five per cent favour the changes being introduced experimentally in pilot areas, a strategy advocated by the BMA and the medical royal colleges.

The association is publishing the poll to coincide with the NHS Bill beginning its committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow. Next Tuesday the Lords will debate an amendment allowing pilot schemes to take place.

Dr Marks said: "We fully support this proposal, which would save the NHS from widespread and unnecessary damage to patient care from the precipitate introduction of untried, untested and unevaluated proposals."

The Government has an opportunity even at this late stage, to accept the idea of regional experiments."

The poll shows that 70 per cent are against the proposal that general practitioners should have a budget from which to pay the running costs of their practice and the costs of medicines and hospital treatment for their patients.

The proposal that local hospitals should become self-governing rather than controlled by health authorities is supported by 21 per cent of those polled, and opposed by 67 per cent.

Asked whether the NHS would be in better or worse shape 10 years after the reforms, 15 per cent said it would be better, and 69 per cent said it would be worse.

Lord Cardigan is leading a campaign against health chiefs who want to close the operating theatre and a ward at his local NHS hospital, the Savernake Hospital near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The closures are threatened to help Swindon health authority trim a million pounds off its spending for the next 12 months.

Delegates at the STUC annual conference in Glasgow voted overwhelmingly for a resolution calling for all contracts awarded under private tendering to be scrapped once Labour had won office.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said that the Government was attempting to introduce a two-tier system of health care. It had "deliberately run down the health service to the point where even some of the service's best supporters have felt they might now need to take out private health insurance because of waiting lists".

He said: "We are heading towards a US-style health service in which, if you have got the money, you will be all right, if you haven't, you will have to suffer."

The conference called for the Health and Safety Executive to start a stress counselling service in industry.

Painkiller is linked with kidney failure

By Thomson Prentiss, Science Correspondent

EVIDENCE that a leading painkiller could cause kidney failure is to be studied by Department of Health experts.

The drug ibuprofen, sold over the counter as Nurofen, has been linked with the potentially fatal condition by researchers in the United States.

Nurofen is one of Britain's biggest-selling, non-prescription pain relievers. About 15 million tablets are sold each year by Boots, which makes them at its Nottingham laboratories.

Results of a three-year study into the side-effects of ibuprofen were published this week in the American journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, by researchers at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore.

They studied the short-term effects of the drug on 12 women, with mild kidney disease who also had arthritis and high blood pressure, and see no cause for concern.

use. Volunteers were given 800 milligrams of ibuprofen three times a day, equivalent to 12 tablets, for up to 11 days.

After eight days, three women developed kidney failure, which reversed when ibuprofen was discontinued. The remaining nine, who received ibuprofen for 11 days, showed changes in kidney function but did not develop kidney failure.

The findings will be examined by the Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines, and by Boots. Packets of Nurofen carry warnings that anyone receiving medical treatment should seek advice from their doctor about their use.

Boots said: "Ibuprofen is widely regarded as one of the safest of all pain relievers. We note that the American study involves only 12 patients with underlying conditions, and see no cause for concern."

Hendrix guitar up for auction

MICHAEL POWELL



Mitch Mitchell, one-time drummer with the Jimi Hendrix Experience, plays the white Fender Stratocaster that the legendary guitarist performed with at the Woodstock and Isle of Wight pop festivals. The instrument is expected to make £60,000 to £70,000 in an auction at Sotheby's next

Wednesday (John Shaw writes). Mitchell was given the guitar by Hendrix in exchange for a drum kit.

Part of its value stems from its survival: Hendrix, a volatile performer who died prematurely in 1970, was well known for smashing instruments on stage. Mr Steve Maycock, in charge of

the auction, said: "Jimi Hendrix was the best exponent of the electric guitar around. He was streets ahead of everyone else. This was his favourite instrument." The sale includes a cream jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley on stage in Las Vegas, estimated at £25,000 to £30,000, and two Marilyn Monroe dresses.

A BLACK police constable who accuses his former chiefs of racism believed he was being "hounded" out of the force, a London industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

PC William Halliday, aged 30, claims he was offered a transfer if he dropped the case. He told the Ebury Bridge tribunal that Inspector Ian Thirkell, a former royal bodyguard, and other white officers at Orpington Police station, Kent called him "nigger" and "coon" and referred to him as "Bill the Spook". The Metropolitan Police claim the exchanges were "joke banter".

When he complained about the allegedly racist remarks to Mr Thirkell, his superior, and other chiefs, nothing was done. PC Hugh Muir, the Police Federation shop steward for the area, said: "The main objection was that the supervisors were aware of it and would not discourage it."

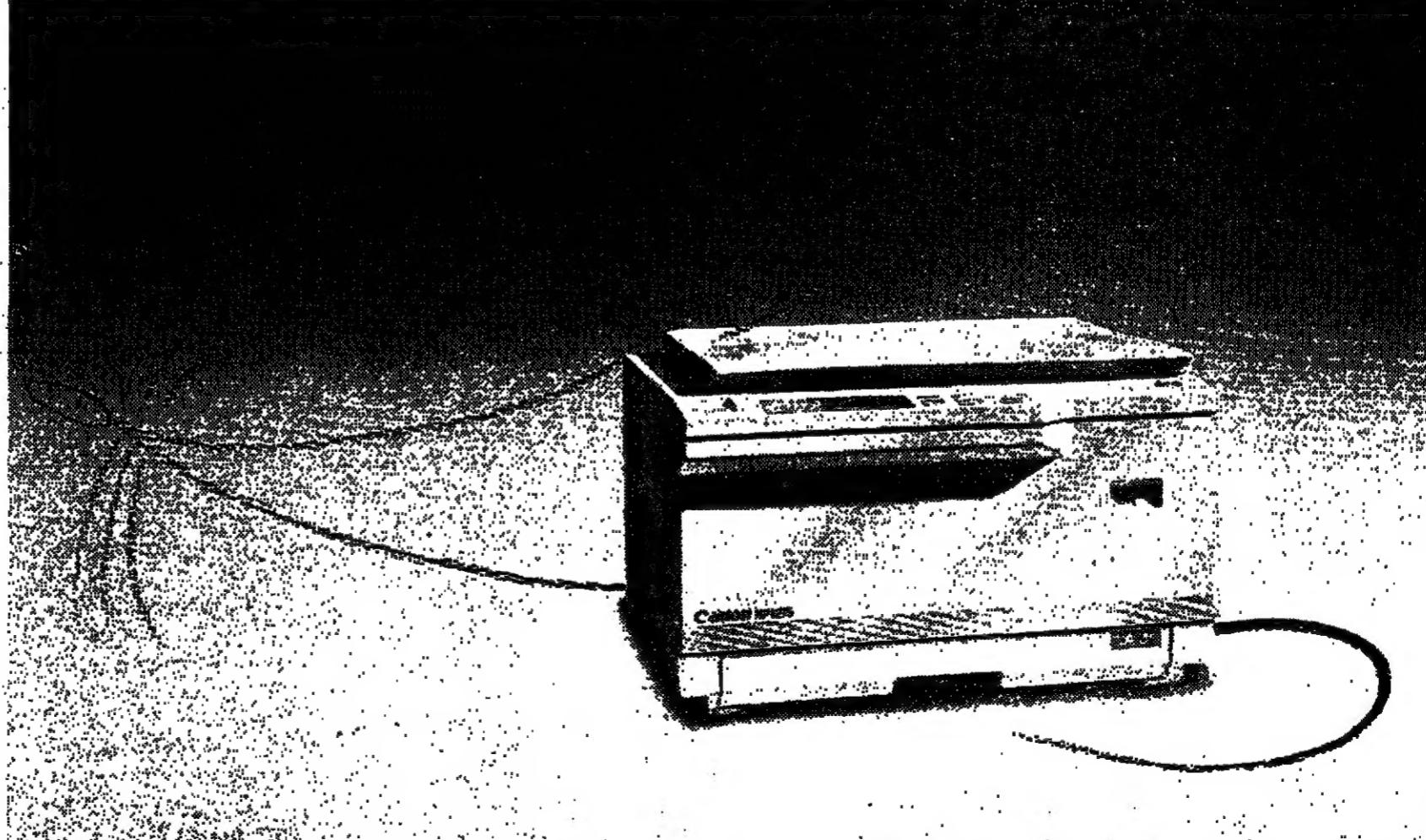
"Constable Halliday said it was banter but sometimes it personally did hurt him."

Insp Thirkell of the Metropolitan Police deny racial discrimination.

PC Halliday denies claims that he was "paranoid, lazy and sexist". The black policeman is alleged to have asked a WPC: "Fancy a bit of black?"

The hearing continues today.

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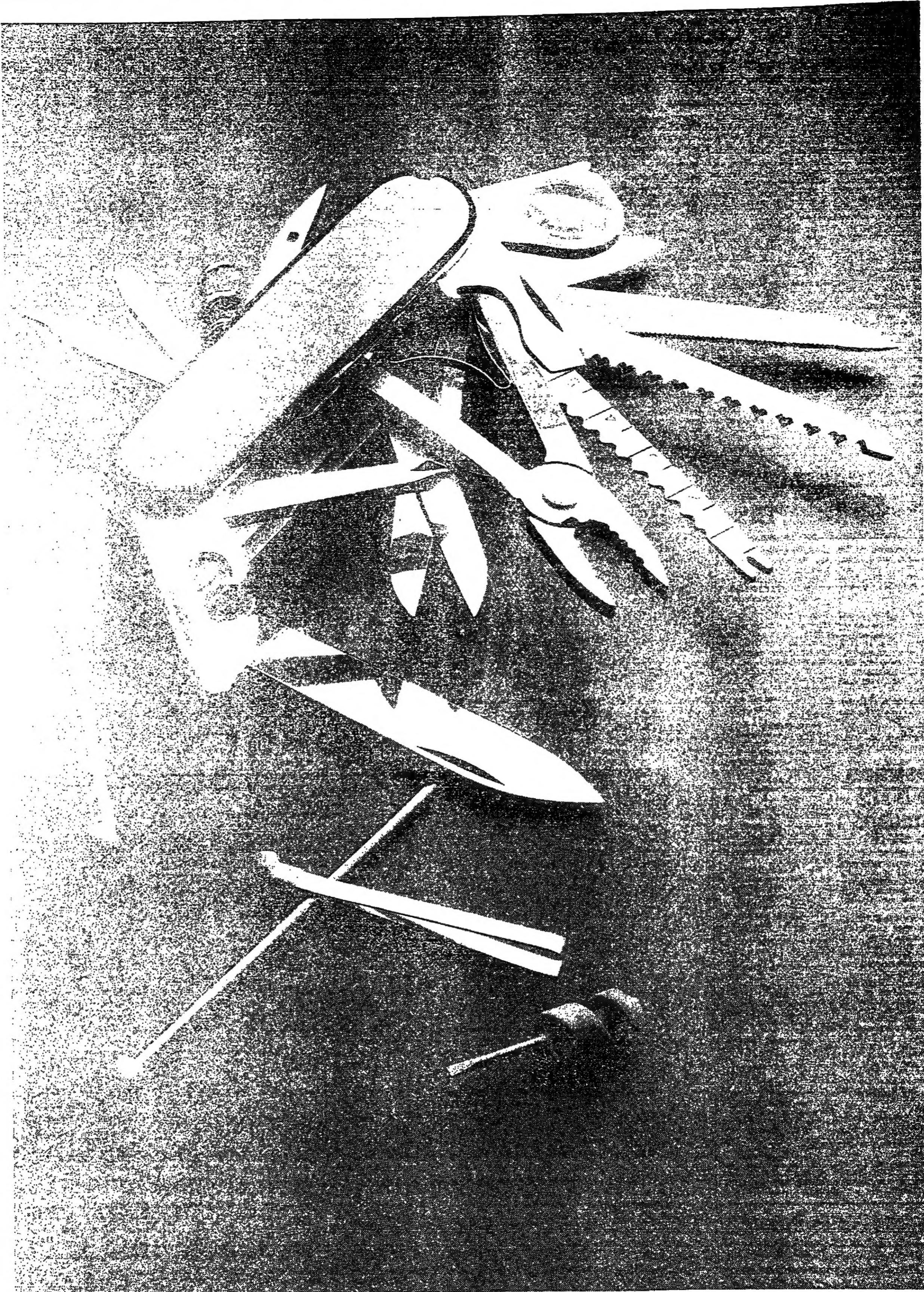
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Jubilant left claims teachers' leader has picked wrong target

By David Tytler
Education Editor

CRIES of "resign" greeted Mr Doug McAvoy's entry into the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday as the ultra-left-oriented success in its demands for national strike.

The union's general secretary had infuriated the left wing yesterday by claiming that the Militant Tendency had shaped the conference's agenda to suit its own ends. The left's main complaint seemed to be that he had picked the wrong target.

The success of building on the widespread anger of teachers goes

to a coalition of the ultra-left, mostly outside Militant.

Mr Ian Murch, a member of the executive from Bradford, who proposed the motion that set the Bournemouth conference on the path to calling for illegal secondary strike action, is a co-founder of the Campaign for a Democratic Union.

Nor is he a member of the well-organized Socialist Teachers' Alliance, co-founded by Mr Bernard Regan, a London teacher and one of the 10 or 12 hard-left members who make up about a quarter of the NUT's national executive.

The alliance, with 700 members, has its roots in the International

Marxist Group. The Campaign for a Democratic Union, the other hard-left group, stemmed from a rank-and-file organization which was disbanded in 1976 and had close links with the Socialist Workers' Party.

The organizations link together at the conference to cause the maximum discomfort to the largely moderate, and now clearly shaken, national executive which has failed to swing delegates behind it.

The tactics of the ultra-left have much in common with Trotskyist groups in making impossible demands, such as a flat-rate pay rise of £3,000 a year and calls for strikes

on every issue. Miss Anita Dickenson, the London teacher whose article in the *Militant* newspaper claimed that its supporters had been influential in shaping the conference agenda, yesterday made no apologies for being a supporter of Militant.

She said: "Doug McAvoy tried to scare tactics to intimidate delegates to vote against the motion. His scare tactics claiming that conference was being manipulated did not work."

Mr McAvoy himself was unrepentant, claiming the heckling was clearly being organized by political groups.

He was elected general secretary

of the 190,000-strong union last year with a considerable majority after 15 years as deputy general secretary. Before that he taught in Newcastle upon Tyne. Now aged 51, his political views have softened and he believes persuasion is one of the union's most useful weapons.

It would be wrong to say that the strike weapon has been abandoned entirely but Mr McAvoy believes that the membership in the country is not prepared to strike.

He said: "I would not support any attempt to take the union into illegal action. The members will not do it, therefore a decision of conference asking them to do

something they will not do is unworkable." Mr McAvoy says his main aim is to give the union back to the members who stay away from local meetings in droves.

Most of the meetings which elect delegates and propose motions are iniquitous and all very badly attended, allowing the ultra-left to get into a position where they have captured the conference.

Mr McAvoy is clearly anxious to speak over the heads of conference to the members at home. He said: "Political factions have always sought to find any vehicle to ride on. The NUT is a pretty sizeable vehicle and I don't want them to grab the steering wheel."

Mr McAvoy: Wants to speak to teachers at home

Classes at risk from strikes by staff over pay and jobs

By Douglas Broome and David Tytler

SCHOOLS in England and Wales were last night facing months of disruption as strike at the conferences of two teacher unions.

As delegates representing 170,000 members of the National Union of Teachers voted to call for national strikes to defend the jobs of staff threatened with redundancy, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference was told that pay strikes were likely to resume in the autumn.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary designate, told the NAS/UWT conference in Scarborough: "Every pay increase we have secured since 1969 has been preceded by

action of some kind. I believe that anyone who calls himself a trade unionist should be prepared to stand up and fight by taking action.

"There has been a deliberate campaign by the right-wing press to portray this as unfashionable and something that should be relegated to the last century. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"The ambulance workers have shown that we have got to be prepared to stand and fight for our case. The teachers are in the same situation now. It can only be a question of time before anger spreads more widely than NAS/UWT membership."

Mr de Gruchy expected the government announcement

in September of the cash limit on next year's teachers' pay award to be the trigger for strikes and the conference will today vote on a motion giving the executive power to hold a strike ballot at any time.

However,

Mr de Gruchy made clear that he would resist calls for a boycott of GCSE and A-Level examination work in the run-up to strikes. "That is like using a nuclear weapon and we are not convinced that it would work," he told delegates representing the union's 113,000 members.

Meanwhile,

the NUT deferred all discussion on pay to a special conference in October, effectively ruling out a national pay strike this year.

Union officials will embark on a massive consultation exercise during the summer term to discover what action their members would be prepared to take in support of a renewed pay campaign.

Mr Bill Greenfields, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, told the Bournemouth conference: "We need to get away from the old style debates and start a period of building rather than posturing", a view echoed by Mr David Furness, of Macclesfield, who said: "Immediate strike action is not the answer to all our problems of the past 10 miserable years."

While the two unions leaders differed in their approach to the pay campaign, they were at one on the question of striking over redundancies.

Mr Fred Smithies, the outgoing NAS/UWT general secretary, said he supported the view of Mr Doug McAvoy, his NUT counterpart, that it would be illegal to stage national strikes over redundancies declared by individual school governing bodies.

However, Mr Smithies said his union was ready to stage local "retaliatory" strikes if teachers were made redundant because of poll-tax capping or by governors attempting to balance the books under new school funding formulas.

It is far from certain that all of the 170,000 claimed by the NUT are actually teaching in state schools. Many are retired or under training.

NAS/UWT and the AMMA have been locked in a battle for second place for years.

The NAS/UWT claims 18,000, the AMMA says it has 120,000, but almost a sixth of those are in the private sector.

PAT says it has more than 40,000 members, taking the total to 448,000 even before the two head teacher organizations have laid claim to their share of the market.

College funding blocked

By Ruth Gledhill

FUNDING for one of London's most renowned colleges has been suspended because of a report which found serious financial and managerial problems.

An unpublished report to the council of Morley College calls for a new management structure and other radical reforms to save the college.

Funding for the college, which has been allocated £1.3 million by the London Residuary Body for this financial year, has been put on hold from the end of this academic year in August. A source close

to the college said: "The LRB will need some reassurances that the structure has been properly rearranged before they hand over more money."

A three-man inquiry team, led by Lord Henderson of Brompton, found "a number of problems" at Morley, the source said.

The 100-year-old adult education college in Waterloo was the subject of a lengthy campaign to prevent its closure with the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the LRB, said the

college was "a very necessary part of adult education in inner London". A joint executive committee had been set up to produce a financial and administrative framework to ensure its future.

Referring to a report that left-wing teachers had refused to register students to be added: "I was not aware of this action. But if this is so it makes the problems at Morley College rather more difficult than I had anticipated."

Mrs Janet Roberts, the principal, was not available for comment.

Hopes of £10m bonus for BBC

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

THE BBC expects to receive an unexpected bonus worth at least £10 million a year due to an apparent change of heart by the Government over the licence fee.

For the past three years the licence fee has increased in line with the retail price index, but ministers indicated in the broadcasting White Paper that from April 1991 increases would be less than the RPI, to take account of income earned from new subscription services.

"If subscription goes well it may be possible to freeze or even reduce the licence fee," the blueprint added.

However, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, disclosed in an interview with *The Times* that the Home Office had not told the BBC of such "RPI minus" plans and he expected increases in the licence fee to continue to be inflation-linked. "My own view is that the RPI licence fee will remain until the whole thing comes up under the charter [in 1996]," he said. "The licence fee is fantastic value for money."

The effect of such a change can be gauged from the most recent increase in the licence fee from £66.22 to £71.24, which was based on the RPI of 7.6 per cent last September. With about 20 million licence fee payers, the increase in income will be £100 million.

Assuming a similar inflation rate for next year's licence fee increase, the additional income from a fully index-linked rise would be about £108 million. Even a 1 per cent cut on an RPI-based increase would have cost the BBC £10 million a year.

Negotiations between the Home Office and the BBC over future licence fee increases should begin shortly.

The BBC is planning subscription services which will be "downloaded" during night hours to specialist users such as lawyers, financiers and farmers and yachtsmen.

The Home Office said last night: "We have not had any discussions on the licence changes."

My BBC battle, page 21

Footpath fight faces cash hitch

By Peter Davenport

A PROJECT to repair footpaths in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, scarred by the worst erosion of its kind in the country, is in danger of being prematurely halted because of lack of funds.

A £100,000 shortfall in the £200,000 budget for the five-year scheme, begun in 1987, threatens to end the programme a year early, when the project team is on the verge of its most important work.

Mr Simon Rose, the project leader, said yesterday that unless the money was found by next March, staff would have to be laid off.

The programme in the Three Peaks was always seen as a testbed for a lot of upland problem areas elsewhere," he said.

"Our belief was that the lessons learned here, dealing with footpath erosion on a scale never before seen in this country, could be transferred to other situations.

"The work has a national significance and it would be crazy to allow it to end when it would be four years into a five-year programme."

The problems on Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Whernside, each rising to more than 2,000ft and dominating the heart of the Dales National Park, have been caused by the sheer amount of human traffic.

Each year about a quarter of a million walkers tramp along well-worn footpaths which have been gradually widened until they have become swampy rural "motorways", defacing the landscape and presenting serious conservation and restoration problems.

In 1987 the National Park set up its five-year programme to investigate a variety of possible techniques for repairing

the paths involving a range of solutions from the encouragement of natural vegetation to the use of artificial surfaces.

Originally £250,000 of funding was to have come through the Community Programme but the National Park after a year, because of a change in the rules covering the eligibility of those able to take part, having received only £50,000.

Extra finance from the National Park Committee, which was already committed to some £350,000, and a grant from the Sports Council reduced the expected shortfall to £100,000. The National Park

has submitted an application to the Department of the Environment for extra funds for the programme to complete it but hopes that it will be successful are not high.

It is already feeling financially hard-pressed, expressing "disappointment" at its government grant for this year and concern that suggested spending restrictions over the next three years will mean annual reductions, in real terms, of 5 per cent.

Appeals have also been made to the Countryside Commission, which has already given £200,000, and to the Nature Conservancy Council, which has provided £75,000. The aim of the

project was not to repair all the existing damage to the 68km of footpaths in the Three Peaks but to conduct a series of experiments to various sections to discover the most efficient, aesthetic and cost-effective methods of doing so.

The project has achieved two notable successes: re-vegetation trials on the bare summit of Whernside have shown that encouraging the return of plants will be much easier; and several kilometres of stone chipping paths laid in the area since 1987 are showing signs of re-greening as vegetation returns, stimulated by treatment with fertilizers, seed and soil.

view the 200-acre site without leaving one small room on the grounds.

For the world's biggest camera obscura has been built close to the heart of the development, which takes in two miles of reclaimed river-side at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

The device, a mechanism of lenses and mirrors, will allow up to 200 visitors at a time to view images of the festival on a curved viewing plate in a light-proof room.

Camera obscuras are based on a principle discovered by the ancient Greeks. Gateshead's obscura uses a rotating mirrored plate to project light downwards through a 15ft vertical set of mirrors and lenses, on to the viewing surface.

New office building must take in a neo-Gothic mansion

By John Young

PLANS for a new head office for the Eagle Star Insurance group, at Bishopton Cleeve, near Cheltenham, will have to be altered to accommodate a Victorian mansion which the Government has refused to allow to be demolished.

The company had applied to the Department of the Environment for the neo-Gothic house, the Grange, to be removed from the list of protected buildings, but Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has declared that its historic and architectural interest justifies its retention.

The house, built in 1865 and surrounded by parkland, has retained its original character with leaded and mullioned windows, pointed arches, iron-studded door-

ways and carved foliage capitals. Interior features include individually designed marble fireplaces and brass door knobs.

Mr Patten's decision was not unexpected, since the house was spot-listed last year at the request of local residents. To have it de-listed would have been an admission that the listing was a mistake.

The company said it would now have to consider how the house could be best fitted in with the new building and what use to make of it. There was a precedent in that its offices in the middle of Cheltenham had been designed successfully to incorporate two Georgian houses.

Visitors to the National

Racecourse arson by rights group

ANIMAL rights campaigners have claimed responsibility for a fire that badly damaged a stand at Aintree racecourse.

Firemen took nearly two hours to control the blaze at the Old Lord Derby Stand, which workmen had begun demolishing after the Grand National meeting.

Yesterday the Animal Liberation Front said in a statement it started the fire over the Bank holiday weekend "as an act of retribution for the horses killed during the Grand National".

Seven horses died in the three-day Aintree meeting.

Joyriders killed

Leicestershire police said yesterday that they were not chasing a high-powered car stolen by two teenagers who were killed when it crashed head-on into a car driven by an elderly couple near Frisby on Monday afternoon. The elderly couple were also killed in the crash.

Drugs charge

Thomas Barton, aged 65, of Edge Hill, Liverpool, was remanded in custody by Dover magistrates yesterday charged with illegally importing cannabis resin with a street value of about £140,000 on Easter Monday. Mr Barton was arrested at Dover Hoverport.

Police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring

has been suspended from Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, the Roman Catholic public school, pending the result of a police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring.

Boys suspended

At least seven boys have been

suspended from Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, the Roman Catholic public school, pending the result of a police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring.

Police investigation into an alleged sixth form drugs ring

Quick check!

APR/JULY 19.8% (VARIABLE)	SECURED LOAN REPAYMENTS TABLE
Monthly Repayments	

Muslim voters hold key as two parties battle

By Jamie Dettmer

MR MOHAMMED Riaz resigned five months ago from the Bradford Labour Party and crossed over to the council chamber to become the first Asian in the city's history to sit on the Conservative benches.

His defection may prove at the local elections on May 3 to be an astute move and a harbinger of a significant change in Muslim politics in Bradford.

In the wake of the controversy over Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, Muslims have started, on a larger scale than ever before, to break out of a political straitjacket which had left them more observers than participants in the mainstream of British politics.

Traditionally, the Asian Muslim vote has gone to the Labour Party, a response to the perceived racism of Conservative politicians. With the rise of an Asian middle class and the emergence into adulthood of a new generation of more confident British Asians, that could change.

The Rushdie affair has hastened the coming of age of British Muslims. It has led them to become aware of British political realities.

Mr Riaz is not the only signal of a rustling in the

undergrowth in Bradford, which first received substantial numbers of Asian immigrants in the 1950s. The 30,000 or so Asian voters in the West Yorkshire city will this year see Muslim candidates battling it out against each other in two wards, University and Toller, in a fight that could well determine whether Labour recaptures a city narrowly controlled by the Tories since 1988.

Labour needs four net gains in the election to take back the city from the bluff Yorkshire Thatcherite, Mr Eric Pickles, who in two years has forced through a huge privatization programme.

Thirty-two seats are up for election this year — two are by-



Mr Riaz: "Labour had made a fatal mistake"



Mr Pickles: Cut jobs through privatization

elections. Despite the huge national swing to Labour, it will be a close-run thing in Bradford. Labour is defending the majority of the seats.

The community charge is less of an issue in Bradford than in neighbouring towns. At £276, it compares favourably with Leeds and Wakefield. That, however, will not be enough to hand Bradford back to Labour, according to Mr Riaz, who is standing in the University ward, which is 80 per cent Asian. "A lot of Asians used to vote Labour because they looked upon themselves as working class," he said. "But the 1980s has long gone. Times have changed and you find Asians in all walks of life now — in business and in the professions."

He says that Labour made a fatal mistake during the Rushdie affair. The local Labour MPs and councillors were not sensitive to the reasons for the "burn the book" protests in the city.

"Rushdie brought every-

thing to the surface and exposed Labour. People who had been loyal to Labour for years were upset that the party could not understand the importance of religion."

The British Asian commu-

nity has been a one-party one,

according to Mr Riaz. "Now it

wants a two-party system."

That view is endorsed by key figure in Bradford's Muslim community, Mr Liqat Hussain, general secretary of the powerful Council of Mosques, which was at the forefront of the anti-Rushdie protest.

Dressed in traditional garb, Mr Hussain is a virtual opposite to the suited and Western-oriented Mr Riaz. But he too sees the emergence of a two-party system. However, unlike Mr Riaz, his goal is for less social integration of Asian Muslims.

"We come from a background with a different political structure and it has not been easy to understand your one," he said.

Defying gravity in the garage



Clinging like a bat to the underside of a garage roof near his home in Rossendale, Lancashire, Mr Mark Leach, a member of the British rock climbing team, trains for the World Cup climbing competitions starting next month in Vienna. Mr

Leach, aged 26, has made a specialty of defying gravity on overhangs that could not be more overhanging (Ronald Faux writes). His technique is to brace hands against feet on the holds, and to wedge fingers and toes in cracks above him. The

world champion in this esoteric field, Mr Simon Nadin, aged 24, of Buxton, Derbyshire, will defend his title against continental climbers who have the Alps to practise upon. The strong British contingent expects to do well.

Scottish Labour Party delays roof tax figures

By Kerry Gill

THE LABOUR Party in Scotland may not publish detailed figures relating to its proposed property tax, an alternative to the community charge, before the forthcoming local government elections on May 3, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Donald Dewar, the opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that independent, academic researchers were working out the precise sums likely to be paid and these would only be published once the work was completed.

Labour, which announced its alternative tax earlier this year, has been criticized for not revealing costing for the so-called roof tax while at the same time claiming that it would be much fairer, based on the ability to pay, and benefit people living in mod-

est homes and on modest incomes.

Mr Dewar said he would not indulge in "back of the envelope" calculations and refused to be tied to a strict timetable when he launched the party's regional election campaign in Glasgow.

Pressed about Labour's failure to produce figures, he said: "We are not going to go in for back of envelope jobs and the kind of ludicrous arithmetic that Mr Forsyth [chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party] has been producing."

"We have got independent working on it; it is difficult because there are a very large number of variables. The important thing is that the poll tax has shifted the burden of taxation against areas that are deprived, areas of low income, and there is no argument from anyone that a property-based assessment of the kind we are proposing will reverse that trend."

It has been suggested by Mr John Maxton, the party's spokesman on local government, that the roof tax could work out at about £600 for each household in Scotland. Mr Dewar agreed that this was a plausible figure and much more reasonable than the figures bandied about by the Tories.

Mr Dewar accused the Government of a betrayal of trust over the poll tax. He said: "The vast majority of Scots know the poll tax is unjust and unacceptable. Scottish Office ministers have the power to do something about this overwhelming and justified grievance. They refuse to act and that refusal is a betrayal of trust."

He said Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was determined that the Conservative Party would "proudly fight on the community charge" and that it was here to stay. "This," Mr Dewar said, "is no more than still bravado. He has only to look at the panic on his own benches to know the ground is shifting under his own feet."



Mr Dewar: £600 per roof a "plausible" figure

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Nissan money restores opera for school pupils

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

LOW-PRICE initiatives for schoolchildren at the Royal Opera House, which were threatened by spending cuts, have been saved, thanks to a £750,000 sponsorship from Nissan (UK).

Earlier this year the opera house announced that the six performances a year — three of ballet, three of opera — would have to be scrapped because its budget was no longer sufficient to cover the £3 million to clear it in the 1989-90 financial year.

The car company sponsorship, announced yesterday, will run for three years. It restores artistic events which, after 13 years, had become an institution, introducing 12,000 children a year to top class performances.

Although given an £1.1 million

Americans rush to jump on the greener-than-thou bandwagon

From Charles Bremner
New York

WHO cares the most deeply about Planet Earth? Meryl Streep, the Du Pont Chemical Company, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the "guru" gags of San Francisco? Judging from appearances this week the answer would be a dead heat.

You would have to reach back to the Second World War to find a time when so many strange bedfellows have united in common cause as they have this week as Americans gear up to celebrate Earth Day, next Sunday's "High Mass" to the Universe, forever.

On that day, hundreds of thousands of citizens from President Bush to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles will embrace the planet with rituals ranging from holistic humming through tree-planting to watching a televised "E-Pay spectacular" performed by Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman and a bevy of old-hand eco-stars such as Peter, Paul and Mary. In Washington the zoo elephants will stomp on aluminum cans. In Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, they will hold

a "Multi-media meditation to heal Planet Earth".

In Rochester, New York, Glen McCrane, the folk singer, will perform on an instrument composed entirely of rubbish. On Mount Everest, Mother Earth News will broadcast messages into space from the Pope and Anil Adamic, the agnostic communist "to travel through the Universe, forever".

The

United States may have come late to the green movement, thanks to the distasteful of the Reagan-era binges, but nobody could fault it now for lack of zeal. With the fervour of repentant alcoholics, corporate polluters, right-wing Republicans, investment banks, fast-food chains and others have clambered aboard a wagon already loaded with rock singers and Hollywood stars.

To the hardcore ecologists who were stumped through the 1980s like old-time Soviet dissidents, this mood of greener-than-thou smacks of too much of a good thing. Could it really be true, they wonder, that the FBI, which hounded the young organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, has set up an exhibition on

conservation in the foyer of their Washington headquarters?

Shrewd operators like the then Vice-President George Bush saw coming.

Alerted by their polling, the candidate's strategists presented him in 1988 as the future "environmental president", a role that is only now wearing a little thin. A

New

York Times poll found yesterday that 69 percent of the public believes "he

has

mainly just talked" about the subject.

It took the public relations disaster of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in March last year to alert the commercial world to the urgency of the green cause. This month, with supermarkets, banks and town halls awash with green messages, it seems few products or services are being marketed without a claim to environmental sanction. IBM, AT&T, Mobil, Du Pont, have all taken the pledge and are running green advertising.

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Muscovites rally to defend prosecutors of corrupt officials

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

TROOPS and police sealed off Red Square yesterday as thousands of demonstrators gathered in central Moscow to support two Soviet government investigators accused of committing "gross violations of the law" in their fight to expose corruption in high places.

In the Kremlin, adjoining the square, members of the Supreme Soviet debated a report by Mr Roy Medvedev, the former dissident historian. He is the chairman of a parliamentary commission which has been investigating the case of the two men, who appeared yesterday to have gone into hiding to escape arrest.

Mr Medvedev said the whole country had been discussing the fate of the two prosecutors, Mr Telman Gulyan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov, who successfully convicted for corruption the son-in-law of the late President Brezhnev in 1988.

The commission had confirmed that the two investigators committed "gross violations of the law" while conducting investigations in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. It also

concluded that the Procurator's Office had been justified in dismissing them from leading the investigating team.

But the commission had failed to discover evidence that would testify to the guilt, as alleged by the investigators, of highly-placed officials such as the leading Politburo conservative, Mr Yegor Ligachev.

Supreme Soviet deputies were handed the commission's report and a request from the Procurator's Office that the two men, who are also people's deputies, be stripped of their parliamentary privilege and arrested. Mr Medvedev said he was surprised that neither man had turned up for the session.

The Supreme Soviet's chairman, Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, said he believed Mr Gulyan was currently in Armenia campaigning as a candidate in next month's republican parliamentary elections.

There was no hint of Mr Ivanov's whereabouts but it was reported from Leningrad that he was elected to the Congress of People's Deputies in March, 1989, that a demonstration of support had been held there too and that

AN IMPASSIONED plea for an end to the criminal prosecution of homosexuals in the Soviet Union has been voiced by a leading magazine, which said the campaign against Aids is being severely hampered by gays' understandable reluctance to come forward for testing.

In one of the frankest and most sympathetic accounts of the plight of homosexuals in this country, *Ogonyok*, the influential liberal weekly, said their continued prosecution was a flagrant violation of human rights.

The magazine noted that, despite a promise to remove from the criminal code the article which stipulates up to five years' imprisonment for homosexuality, the law has not yet been changed. Although widely disregarded in Moscow and most big cities, the legislation is vigorously enforced in the provinces.

Ogonyok said that public prejudice against homosexuals, whom it described as "the rejected", was strong, although their numbers were greater than officials here have ever admitted. The magazine estimated that up to 5 per cent of Soviet men are homosexual, but said gays accounted for 30 per cent of all the Aids cases so far registered in this country.

Ogonyok interviewed three men in hospital diagnosed as Aids carriers, and gave prominence to their complaints about the way they were treated. One said that anyone publicly identified as an Aids carrier was automatically dismissed from his job, and the police frequently then brought charges against him.

He said promises of anonymous testing and contact tracing were never kept. The police usually spied on those reporting to such clinics, and interrogated victims to give information on their partners. He said that, when referred to

a testing clinic in another town, homosexuals were invariably accompanied by police.

Soviet society, the magazine said, is still repressive to homosexuals: they have nowhere to meet, they cannot share flats, they are shunned at work and most are forced to get married to conceal their orientation. *Ogonyok* compared their situation with the relative freedom in the West, and said repression only encouraged furtive contacts, casual sex and male prostitution.

It said that there was a network of male as well as female prostitutes in most big cities: for foreigners, the rate was \$50 (£30).

The *Ogonyok* article has been published at the campaign against Aids here is being taken far more seriously with the numbers of infected rising alarmingly. Newspapers have warned that conditions in the Soviet Union are a recipe for disaster: there are still not enough disposable syringes in hospitals, drug addiction is spreading, homosexuals are frightened of disclosure, and public discussion of sex is still inhibited by old taboos.

Nevertheless, *glasnost* has brought some unusual frankness recently. A television documentary on ethics last week included an interview with a prisoner who spoke of homosexuality in prison camps.

An eight-page unofficial newspaper published by the Anti-Aids Campaign is freely available in underground stations and gives detailed information on sexual practices, myths and homosexuality.

The *Ogonyok* article is significant not only for its denunciation of a law that almost all Soviet doctors and sociologists regard as oppressive, but for portraying homosexuals as society's victims.

Memorial request for Stalin victims

From Craig Whitney, Moscow

ALL OVER the vast Siberian triangle of suffering, where millions of people died in Stalin's prison camps, a yearning to atone cries out for fulfilment.

Now Ernst Neizvestny, the sculptor who created Khrushchev's tomb in Moscow before emigrating to the West, has been asked by the authorities in cities at the three corners of the triangle to build vast monuments to the victims.

At present living in New York, he said he hoped to start memorials in Vorkuta, Sverdlovsk, and Magadan this year.

He said: "In all Russian history, they have never built a monument to what they did wrong. So this is a big historical duty."

Mr Neizvestny, born in Sverdlovsk, never served time in Stalin's camps. He was so badly wounded in Austria in combat with the Red Army in the Second World War he was left for dead.

In an interview between visits from Soviet journalists and members of the Communist Party Politburo, he said he had been thinking about the memorials for years.

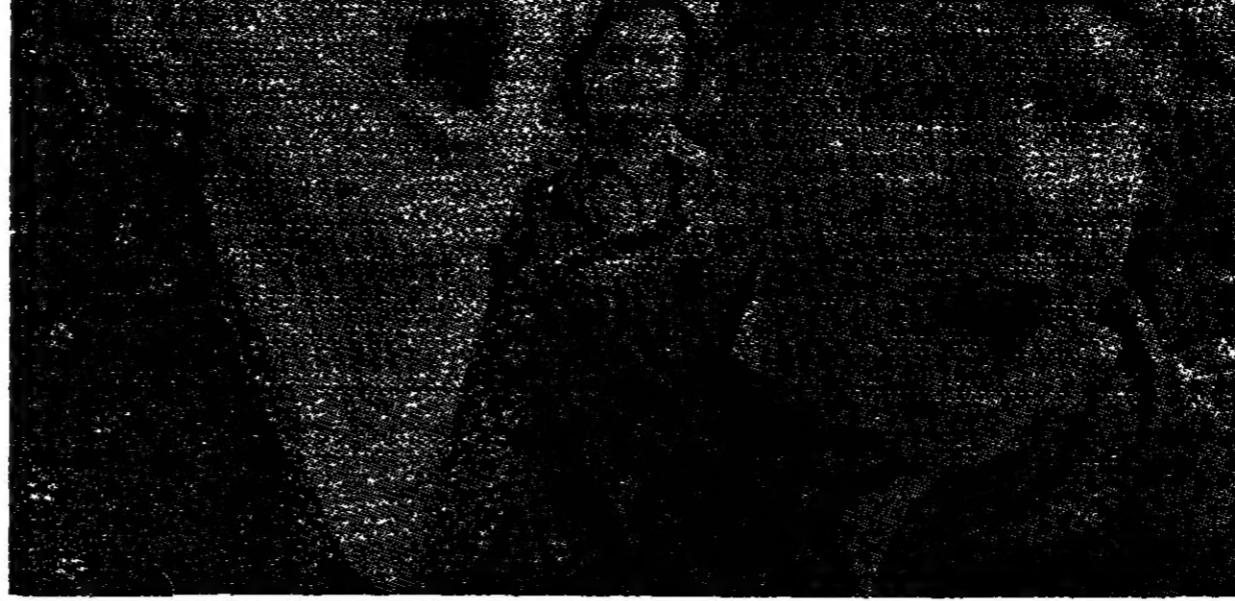
city councillors had offered him "political asylum".

Beyond the police cordon in Moscow, protesters waved banners saying "Gulyan and Ivanov, our conscience" and "Gulyan and Ivanov, the people are with you".

Speakers, some of them Russian Federation deputies, denounced the Communist Party's Central Committee and President Gorbachev's Politburo for failing to act against corrupt officials.

Demonstrators shouted "Shame on the Central Committee, shame on Gorbachev." Many of them were voters from Zelenograd on the outskirts of Moscow who had elected Mr Gulyan as their deputy.

In a move that surprised



Housewives' choice: Two angry Moscow housewives denouncing corrupt officials during a Red Square rally yesterday attended by thousands of ordinary citizens in the defence of two beleaguered Soviet investigators

Albania signals wish to restore UK links

From Richard Bassett, Saranda Bay, Albania

FEW thorns in the side of relations between nations appear so deceptively calm as does Saranda Bay.

Here, along the pine-clad shores of ancient Illyria, danger seems remote but, as the Royal Navy found to its cost, these clear blue waters once held uncharted perils.

Two British destroyers, HMS *Volage* and HMS *Saumarez*, struck mines on October 22, 1946. *Volage* came off better with only seven killed. *Saumarez* lost 33 sailors, with a further 39

injured.

British outrage met with equally hostile denunciations from Tirana. Albania could not have laid the mines on only because it had no ships capable of such actions, it said.

Impartial observers noted that the incident came just as Britain and Albania were to establish diplomatic links.

The International Court in The Hague later found that Albania, whose shore batteries earlier that year had fired on HMS *Orion* and HMS *Superb*, was responsible for the damage even if it had not laid the mines. Tirana was to pay compensation of £843,947.

But Albania refused and, in retaliation, Britain blocked Tirana's request for the return of Albania's gold recovered from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War and administered by the Allied Tripartite Commission - Britain, France and America.

Since then, despite "informal contacts" and inconclusive talks in Paris in 1985, attempts at establishing diplomatic relations have founders on the Corfu Channel incident.

It is a situation which every intelligent Albanian regrets. In recent weeks, however, there have been signs that Tirana is

keen to change this. After the ninth plenum of the communist party in January, Tirana issued a statement that it wished to re-establish links with countries "friendly to towards Albania".

Shaban Murati, foreign editor and former editor-in-chief of *Zeri i Popullit*, the Albanian party newspaper, said: "Albania needs to open itself up and re-establish links with many countries. Links with London are an important step."

The loss of life on the British ships is no longer described as "fictional", but as "unfortunate" and even "tragic". The possibility of a monument being put up here to the memory of the dead sailors has been discussed in Tirana.

Professor Raben Puto, the leading international lawyer in Albania, said: "We cannot exclude this possibility, though it is something we must go into once diplomatic relations are established. We abide by the decision of the International Court at The Hague, but Britain was wrong in international law to link the mines. Tirana was to pay compensation of £843,947."

The professor is keen to point out that the present absence of diplomatic relations is "contradictory".

Professor Puto, like many Albanians, recalls with pride how many British travellers visited Albania in the 19th

century, including Byron, who found the Albanians "the most esteemed soldiers in the Turkish service".

Edward Lear, visiting Albania a little later, was no less inspired, though he found the sight of dogs playing with a human south of here distressing.

Later, Aubrey Herbert, who twice turned down the Albanians' crown, thought the Albanians "the most dignified inhabitants of the Balkans".

For their part, Albanians

today are clearly willing to try to put past differences behind them. Dr Grimozi Pashko, one of Albania's leading economists, said: "I am Anglophile. I see an important role for Britain in playing in helping our country. In 10 years, Albania could be a country intersected by motorways with thriving private enterprise."

But all Albanians encountered are adamant that the resumption of talks with Britain must not harm "Albania's prestige". It is a loose phrase, which suggests that all the smooth talk available to modern diplomatic practice will be required if both sides are to receive satisfaction.

Professor Puto said: "We

have streets named after Edith

Durham, an English lady who

loved Albania. We feel Eng-

land was always our friend. It

is a nonsense for us not to

have relations with you."

But posters here still urge

"vigilance". Old Albanians

recall how the British "imperialists" sent agents to land

here in the 19th century.

There is, however, a belief

locally that Anglo-Albanian

links should be re-established.

"Those who laid the mines wanted to destroy our potential friendship. Believe me they were not Albanians," a fisherman said.

Moves to establish army for Europe

By Andrew McEwan

Diplomatic Editor

A FIRST step towards a European army, based initially on the nine-nation Western European Union but later linked to the European Community, could be taken in Brussels on Monday.

Dr Willem Van Eckelen,

secretary-general of the WEU

and a former Dutch Defence

Minister, is to ask a ministerial meeting to give him a mandate to explore the possibilities of "multinational units".

The idea will not be pre-

sented as an embryonic Euro-

pean army because that could

arouse British and American

fears that the WEU could

become a competitor to Nato.

At present, it is seen as a non-

operational security organiza-

tion acting as the European

pillar of the Atlantic alliance.

Mr Van Eckelen made clear

yesterday, however, that his

aims were more ambitious

than the limited proposals he

will put forward on Monday.

"Ultimately, it could be-

come one European army, but

I am flexible on that," he said.

It would be important, he

added, that the US should

retain at least a part of its

forces in Europe.

He envisages each Euro-

pean country's retaining a

home guard while committing

its main forces to a common

European army. Their heavy

weapons would be under its

control, but not nuclear forces.

Under an agreement estab-

lished by the four main Sec-

ond World War victors, the US

is allowed eavesdropping

posts in Berlin. But the in-

terests of the Americans and

the Germans are likely to

diverge as a united Germany

evolves into a new European

superpower, US officials told

The Times.

Bonn has already told the

US that it will not tolerate

intelligence operations aimed

at East Germany or Soviet

troops after German

reunification, although other

operations are expected to

continue. In non-political ar-

as, such as drug trafficking

and terrorism, the US could

even increase its operations.

One German official told *The*

New York Times that the US

will use some of its listening

posts in East Germany to

check that both East and West

East Europe braces for lengthening dole queues

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

SURPRISINGLY, the queue at Warsaw's white-collar employment exchange in Czerwionkowska Street is chirpy, displaying none of the sullenness of the meat queues as clerks, displaced managers, redundant planners and others wait for jobs.

Agnezka, aged 30, a stock clerk, has skimmed the newspapers and surveyed the noticeboards. There are offers for engineers, for a maintenance manager at Bielsko's high-security prison, for a flower-shop supervisor, for a dozen accountants, but nothing for her.

Large-scale unemployment is still in its early days in Eastern Europe — 200,000 in Poland and edging towards that figure in Hungary. But the unemployed, as even government ministers are admitting, are in for a rude shock.

The World Bank says that unemployment will rise rapidly in Poland this year to 1.7 million. The Soviet Union's cuts in its Hungarian engineering imports put at risk at least 200,000 industrial jobs.

Redundant secret policemen are becoming taxi drivers, or setting up private detective agencies, but most of those cast out from the huge defunct planning machine, from heavy industry and collapsing communist party newspapers face the dole.

The rules are strict. An unemployed Pole receives his first benefit, 10 per cent of his previous salary, after one month, but that drops to 30 per cent after three months and 40 per cent after six months. It can never be higher than the average national wage of about one million zlotes (560).

School leavers receive a dole payment equivalent to the lowest national salary, about £7.30. If somebody rejects two reasonable jobs or retraining offers, he loses the right to benefit.

The number of job offers is shrinking quickly. Last year 250,000 jobs were available. Now, there are fewer than

TV makes children fat and violent

Chicago — Children in the United States spend more time watching television than doing anything else but sleeping, and are becoming fat and violent, according to the US Academy of Pediatrics.

Sufficient data have accumulated to warrant the conclusion that protracted television viewing is one cause of violent and aggressive behaviour," the group said.

"The many implicit and explicit messages on television that promote alcohol consumption and promiscuous sexual behaviour are also a cause for concern." (Reuters)

Jets collide

Kirklareli — One pilot was killed and another seriously injured when two Canadian F18 Hornet fighters collided over West Germany, showering fragments of burning wreckage. (Reuters)

Kabul purge

Islamabad — The Afghan regime has executed two ministers, formerly in charge of foreign and tribal affairs, after an attempted coup in March that failed to topple President Najibullah. (AFP)

Shia's battle

West Beirut — Eleven people, including a nun and a priest, were killed and 42 others were wounded in fierce house-to-house fighting between rival Shi'ite factions.

Death decision

Washington — The US Supreme Court has lifted the stay of execution by electrocution of Daryl Pinholster, a mentally retarded murderer from Louisiana, who has spent a record 12 years on Death Row.

Twofreed

Harare — The Mozambique Renamo movement has released Mr Dudley Scarfe, a Zimbabwe industrialist, and Professor David Stephenson, head of the Department of Hydrology at Witwatersrand University in South Africa, eight weeks after kidnapping them.

Big cheese

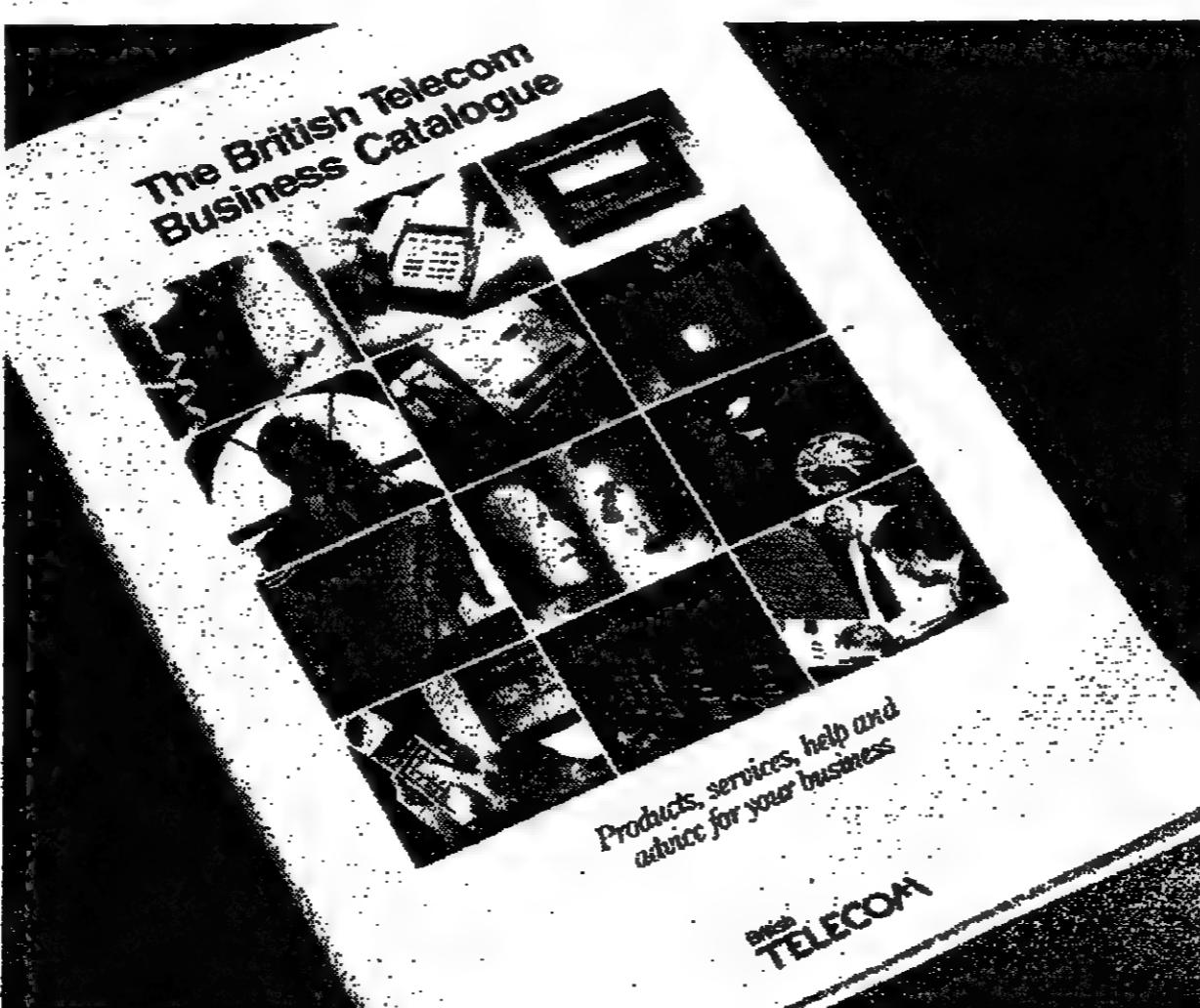
Nicosia — Washington has granted Cyprus exclusive rights in the US to the trademark Halloumi (goat's milk) cheese. (Reuters)



Count Raczynski at his London home yesterday. Too frail to attend the Katyn service, he says the Soviet admission of responsibility has not gone far enough



The language. The dictionary.



Katyn stirs memories for exiled Polish count

By Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Editor

FOUR months into his 99th year, the passage of nearly a century weighs heavily on the frail body of Count Edward Raczynski, but not on his remarkably agile mind.

The last surviving link between the Polish Government of 1939, the British governments of the last 51 years, and the present Solidarity-led Government in Warsaw is willing himself to remain on the planet for one more year.

He believes, and most observers agree, that a fully democratic government will be elected in Poland within a year. The Polish government-in-exile in London, which he helped to create in 1939, will then hand over the seals of office and the national standard, which were smuggled out of the country after the outbreak of war.

As patron and former president of the government-in-exile, he will be consulted on the timing of the handover. "I know I cannot expect many more years, but I hope to live to see that day," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Count Raczynski, the last male in a line of Polish landowning aristocracy, was his country's ambassador to Britain from 1934 to 1939. His estates and palaces were seized or destroyed, and he had to sell works of art he had brought to London to survive.

For the past 20 years, he has lived in a London flat where time seems to have stopped four decades ago. An ancient Blaupunkt radio still warms to Radio Free Europe, and sepia and black and white photographs of Polish gentry line the bookshelves.

Sir Frederic Bennett, its chairman, said that after Moscow's admission of guilt it was felt to be no longer appropriate. The time had come for reconciliation.

The service will be the last of its kind, but there will be one final blow to Moscow's image. Until now, the wording on the memorial has only attributed blame by implication. On Saturday, a marble slab will be added with an inscription making it explicit, and soil taken from the massacre site by a Polish priest will be laid under it.

Count Raczynski is too frail to move far from his flat, though he has received Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, in the past four months. Instead, a message is to be read on his behalf at the service. He will express "some satisfaction" with the Soviet admission but will say it has not gone far enough.

He said his message would demand that Moscow should also confess to responsibility for the deaths of 10,000 Polish officers killed at Starobelsk and Ostashkov, apart from the 5,000 shot at Katyn.

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Closing the teacher gap

Peter Dolton

The supply and demand for teachers has been out of balance for many years. A long period of shortage up to the early 1970s was followed by a surplus. Today we have enough teachers in total, but too few in certain subjects (maths, science, modern languages, crafts, religious education), and in certain geographical areas (most markedly inner London and the South-east). There are also many trained teachers not working in teaching, but who would do so if the conditions were right.

The market for teachers is unlike most conventional markets, for the public sector dominates the demand, and the government is directly responsible for their supply. The government can set desirable pupil/staff ratios and maximum class sizes, and can alter the number of trainees. And although it does not have control of day-to-day spending on schools, the government does of course determine teachers' pay.

Two elements, however, are largely outside government control: changes in the birth rate and, more important, changes in the relative pay and conditions of private-sector occupations. The main problem of teacher supply is the poor relative pay.

Between 1960 and 1986, the average real earnings of teachers rose from £7,300 a year to nearly £11,000 at 1985 prices, although the process was erratic and marked by large, infrequent rises. However, the earnings of teachers in this period did not keep pace with average non-manual employees in the private sector. Teachers' starting salaries are still relatively good (as first salaries for graduates), but earning prospects in mid and late career are poor. The growth that can be expected in earnings is a vital factor in choice of employment.

This is one of the main reasons why fewer and fewer graduates are entering teaching. The proportion of male graduates entering the profession has fallen from 34 per cent in 1960 to 14 per cent in 1980, while among female graduates the percentage has fallen from 61 per cent to 35 per cent. Meanwhile, the proportion of graduates entering commerce has multiplied more than fourfold.

Little can be expected in the long term from the most commonly suggested remedies for alleviating the teacher shortage: using unqualified ancillary staff, delaying retirements, allowing pupil/teacher ratios to rise, or reducing the length of schooling (either by shortening school terms or lowering the school-leaving age). Even the Government's scheme of bursaries for trained teachers in shortage subjects is unlikely to succeed: no bright student is going to be fooled into studying for a few hundred pounds more a year when he faces the prospect of a lifetime of low wages.

CRAIG BROWN

The Suffolk village has become the natural home of the female crime-writer. Patricia Highsmith used to live in Suffolk, and so did Dorothy L. Sayers. Both P.D. James and Ruth Rendell still live there. The observant may believe that the average Suffolk village lacks the necessary proportion of deranged mass-murderers to satisfy the demands of the modern crime-writer, but a glimpse at *The Country Diary of a Crime-Writing Lady* shows that this is not quite so.

Monday: The sun glimmers on the village pond. The duck waddles along, looking almost human. On the village green, the see-saw rocks back and forth. A solitary kite swoops and hovers above the village church, where the rector is preparing for the Harvest Festival. The distant purring of a lawnmower fills the air, interrupted by a faint coo-coo from the village dovecote. In the Olde Tea Shoppe, Mrs Tinkle warms the pot, ready for another day. Down at the barn, PC Humphreys leans on his rusty old bike, shaking his head. "She never 'ad a chance," he says, looking at the putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, that has just been discovered on the see-saw, "she never 'ad a chance."

Tuesday: Today's putrefied corpse, its face hideously disfigured, has just been discovered, squeezed inside Mrs Tinkle's teapot. Mrs Tinkle now recalls that the pot has been pouring badly these past six weeks. This is the seventh victim to be discovered inside a weel. People say there's a killer on the loose.

Wednesday: I pop into the post office. The village post-mistress, a transvestite kleptomaniac with clear psychopathic tendencies, tries a merry greeting. I spot the Rector, browsing through the greetings cards, absent-mindedly employing his bicycle clips to strangle an errant goldfish. "For the first five years of my life, I was brought up by my half-crazed mother to believe that I was the goldfish she had always wanted," he says. "She'd keep me afloat in the bath all day dressed in orange, feeding me

If the Government is serious about revitalising teacher recruitment, there is no alternative to an immediate across-the-board pay increase to restore pay levels to those of other non-manual earnings. This should be backed by a commitment to future index-linked rises to maintain the relative level of pay. The pay structure must also provide greater scope for development and career progression.

These measures could be supplemented by more extensive use of housing allowances and other fringe benefits to help recruitment in areas of high housing prices and living costs.

Subsidiary improvements of particular interest to women would be to allow more flexible use of part-time teachers with job-sharing arrangements and more flexible hours of work, and provision of more training and conversion courses for teachers who have been out of the job for some time or wish to return in a shortage subject.

Teachers recruited from other occupations should be given appropriate allowances. The old Burnham scale incorporated such increments, and this element of the old pay structure should have been retained.

Local authorities should make available to school heads a flexible contingency fund for pay increments, at the discretion of the headteacher, in subjects or geographical areas where there is a shortage.

I am not suggesting differentials between subjects or regions, but a flexible arrangement which allows some latitude in appointments in cases of severe shortage and local difficulty. It must be possible to organize a system which is acceptable to the unions and the teaching force.

One final point is that the Government provided statistics on the number of trained teachers in the country, the number of teachers trained each year, the level of wastage from teacher training courses, the number of graduates taking up first appointments in teaching, the wastage rate from the profession, and the age composition of the teaching force.

Much of this data is not given in official sources, and the information that is available is published after a crippling two-year lag. To maintain an accurate picture of teacher supply, these figures should be collected annually and published promptly.

Any government must count the cost of innovations. In this case the costs may be considerable. However, the Government should also estimate the benefits of these suggestions: the revitalisation of our state education system and the adequate training of our future labour force.

The author is an economist at Bristol University currently researching teacher supply.

Marcus Binney warns against the damage wrought by enthusiastic restorers with money to burn

Kindness that ruins our cathedrals

Our great cathedrals seem to lurch from one financial crisis to another. Save the Mapa Mundi, save the Spar at Salisbury, the view of Ely across the Fens; only a few years ago the Prince of Wales was leading an appeal to save Canterbury Cathedral itself.

Amid such dramas there is an instant attraction in the offer by Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, to mount a national drive to put our cathedrals in perfect order in time for the millennium.

Yet were such a programme launched, and £50 million a year raised and spent every year for the next 10 years, it would provoke a controversy as great as any in Victorian times, when unsympathetic cathedral "restoration" prompted William Morris to form the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, to save cathedrals not from the ravages of time but the zeal of the restorers.

The fury that erupted in the correspondence columns of *The Times* 20 years ago over the

treatment of statues on the west front of Wells Cathedral was a vivid illustration of the passions that any work on cathedrals can inflame. But out of that controversy arose a new system, of careful research and wide-ranging consultation before any work begins. The specially formed Wells Committee established a dialogue between archaeologists, art historians and museum conservators, and brought to Wells the world's leading specialists on air pollution and stone decay. At the end of all this, the Dean and Chapter, and their architect, could fairly claim that they had had the benefit of the best experience and most up-to-date scientific analysis, while satisfying the "anti-scape" lobby that they were doing no more than was absolutely necessary.

Cathedrals like other major historic buildings, are increasingly subject to what I call the pension fund syndrome. Sir Christopher Wren's sage advice, "Leave off decay by daily care", is quickly forgotten. After all, restoration is much more glamorous than

maintenance. Usually, a thorough programme is drawn up to ensure that the building is in first-class order for the next century. That sounds commendable and may be inevitable when an insurance company is investing in a historic property on a prime site in the high street, but it tends to mean that original timbers are stripped out, the roof is entirely reconstructed, cornices and doors are renewed and glass is replaced wholesale. Reinforced concrete and steel girders are introduced, although experience shows they may become a conservation problem before anything else. In the process, a protected property becomes a replica.

Yet our cathedrals are self-evidently works of art, and it is vital that authentic fabric and finishes are carefully respected.

With cathedrals, the issue is compounded by the sheer cost of scaffolding to great heights. Once the scaffolding is up, there is inevitably pressure to replace stonework and carving which may be good for 30 or 40 years more.

The problem has been made much more difficult by accelerating atmospheric pollution, and the recognition that many of the stoneworks on English cathedrals deserve to be treated as museum pieces, although until recently they were dismissed by art historians as second-rate compared to those on the Continent.

A measure recently approved by the General Synod should ensure that all cathedrals take advantage of international experience. The measure, now awaiting approval by Parliament, will establish a fabric committee for each cathedral, which must be consulted and ultimately approve all major work affecting the structure and works of art within it. Where there is disagreement, the matter can go to a public inquiry.

Nearly half of our cathedrals have already set up fabric committees, finding that the best and busiest experts are willing to give their time on a voluntary basis.

as he plans, reunification is achieved a year from now.

Central to the whole exercise is acceptance by East Germany, as from this summer, of the Bundesbank in place of its own Staatsbank. The Bundesbank has to be accepted as independent of political authority, suffering no interference from politicians in fulfilling its priority of keeping inflation at bay.

The Bundesbank has serious misgivings about at least one aspect of European monetary union – namely, the establishment of a central European bank. One advantage of a central European bank in the eyes of other members of the EC is that it would prevent the Community from being effectively controlled by the Bundesbank and the Deutsche Mark. But the Bundesbank is far from eager to hand over its financial autonomy within Germany to a central bank which might be pulled and pushed between rival national governments in the Council of Ministers. The Bundesbank is well aware that not all member states will share Germany's view of the primacy of the anti-inflationary commitment.

However, if a central political authority were established in the Community, it would presumably diminish the danger of such economic tension. The West German government believes that some kind of political union within the Community is necessary to ensure that economic and monetary policy is together when European monetary union is in place, as it has no doubt it will be.

So the issues of German reunification and European union march together. Once the first phase of reunification is over, Germany will turn in more detail to the political integration of the Community. It is argued that its own unity could revive the national patriotism that Germany has for so long stoutly denied itself. But at present, European patriotism is a widely felt and virtuous substitute for the patriotism of this narrower sort.

Whatever the strength of Britain's own reasons for resisting European political union, we should be quite wrong if we failed to recognize that German's brand of European federalism essentially represents its will for peace and for a firm and abiding place in the Western system of nation.

guests at an official Downing Street dinner. The hostess according to one of the guests sat in stony silence, looking grim and annoyed.

If the wig fits

Rumple is back. Leo McKern, who threatened to stop playing the ebullient barrister, has resolved his differences with Thames Television and a new series is to be shot in the autumn. Furthermore, John Mortimer is hard at work on a new collection of stories. They will include, he says, one about a judges' strike in which wigs are exchanged for cloth caps (from Harrods, naturally) and M'lud refers to the criminal in the dock as "brother". Last week Mortimer published an anthology of *Law and Order Stories*, with a startlingly accurate introduction which predicted that the prison system was about to explode. Perhaps his strike story is not so fanciful; does he know something we have missed about the continuing judicial fury over the Lord Chancellor's reforms to the legal profession?

Emerald exile

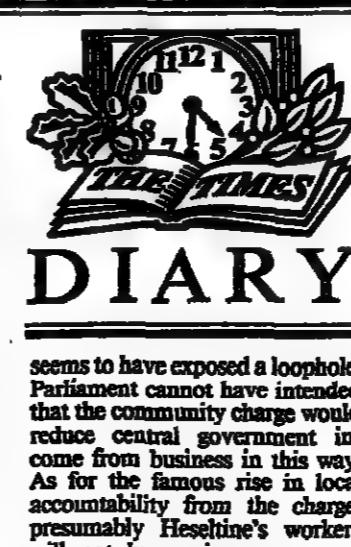
According to Aer Lingus's current glossy advertising, "It took James Joyce a lifetime to discover Dublin". This might come as a surprise to the author of *Dubliners*, who abandoned the city at the age of 10 for the bright lights of Triest and Paris. Although all his great works were based in Dublin, he jointly avoided the place of birth for nearly four decades before his death in 1941.

Reith at last laid to rest

Lord Reith, the BBC's omniscient founding father, was often accused by his minions of seeking to emulate the status of the Almighty. Certainly the organization is not taking any chances. For the 20 years since Reith's death, the BBC has continued to send royal payments to him at his last known address every time his recorded voice was broadcast. The last cheque was posted to Reith at his former address in the Lollards Tower at Lambeth Palace, for his 25th anniversary. Wordinham declared that a classic diary had three elements, "one fact, one generalization and, preferably, one very slight inaccuracy". That sound advice continues to serve diarists to this day.

Give and take

Michael Heseltine's offer to pay the poll tax on behalf of a dozen personal staff and workers on his Oxfordshire estate may not be quite so generous as it seems. The payments will run into several thousand pounds, but the Inland Revenue says that Heseltine should be able to regard the money as a cost incurred in business and so enjoy a reduction in tax liability. Conversely, that might mean that his employees find their tax burden increased as they become liable for income tax on the poll tax sum paid on their behalf. Heseltine said yesterday that in such an event, he would cover his employees' additional tax liability, but conceded that he would also benefit from a reduced tax liability himself. Although the Department of the Environment refused to comment, the affair



seems to have exposed a loophole. Parliament cannot have intended that the community charge would reduce central government income from business in this way. As for the famous rise in local accountability from the charge, presumably Heseltine's workers will not be waxing angry over extravagance by their local council. No prize for guessing whom they will thank instead.

No segregation

Among the black elite who met Nelson Mandela on his flying visit to London – Jesse Jackson, Bernie Grant and Keith Vaz – was a surprising guest: Tony Stansbrook, a backbench Tory with a reputation as a fully paid-up member of the party's hang-em-and-flog-em tendency. Stansbrook, MP for solidly white, middle-class Orpington, became the only member of his party to shake the great man's hand at the select supper given by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal. Despite his otherwise right-wing reputation, Stansbrook has been consistently and outspokenly critical of the Pretoria government,

Spot the slip

Among the heartening messages following the first appearance of this diary yesterday was an inquiry as to its *raison d'être*. Perhaps we can respond by setting out what we

مدى انتشار الاصح

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LABOUR TRAVELS HOPEFULLY

President Bush's declaration in *The Times* yesterday of his confidence in his country's continuing good relations with the United Kingdom if there were to be a Labour government is significant, but not in the most obvious sense. The domestic politics of an ally are not the business of the United States, except to the extent that they affect its external relations.

Through Labour's economic policy, and its recent, much-vaunted enthusiasm for free markets, may have international implications, it is its foreign and defence policy which primarily concerns the United States. Labour's attempt to remodel its domestic policies are relevant only in so far as they have helped it to appear to British electors as a more credible candidate for government.

Much cloud still hangs over the detail of Labour's attitude to defence. President Gorbachov's revolution and the competitive race towards some nuclear and conventional disarmament have helped Labour off the unilateral hook which did so much damage to its public standing at the 1987 election. But its left-wing, on parade again this week at the National Union of Teachers, is alive and kicking and will resist any shift away from total unilateral nuclear disarmament — a shift in which Mr Kinnock himself is still far from clear.

On coming to power, Labour would adopt a policy of "no first use", but instead of promptly abandoning the British deterrent it would put Polaris and such Tridents as had been completed into the general nuclear disarmament negotiations. The aim, as Mr Kinnock has put it, would be to get something for something instead of giving something for nothing. Much ambiguity still surrounds the question of what sort of negotiation it is that can presume its own outcome — the abandonment of the weapon at issue.

That said, the future of Britain's individual nuclear capability is not crucial to the United States. What matters is Britain's firmness under Labour within Nato and the European Community, and on both Washington is now

indicating some reassurance. Washington has perhaps learnt from its experience with Mr Harold (now Lord) Wilson, that for all the philosophical debating within the Labour Party, a promise to set about "negotiating" nuclear weapons meant no more than just that. Though Polaris was formally assigned to Nato, freeing Labour's conscience of the burden of having Britain as an independent nuclear power, the British Government still had the last word over its use.

Such manoeuvring for British home consumption mattered little to Washington, which cared only about Britain's firm commitment to a nuclear alliance, and of that Lord Wilson left the Americans in no doubt. Like most Labour leaders, he became an almost obsessive Americanophile. Mr Kinnock's dismay at his brush-off by President Reagan and his eagerness for American endorsement at present suggest that he will prove as soft a touch in this respect as his predecessors.

Even if this were not so, hard politics would call President Bush to be friendly with whomever was British Prime Minister. Though the President gave a warning against jumping to conclusions about Mrs Thatcher's present standing in the opinion polls, the current political scene in Britain must lead his Administration to try to understand Labour. It is in that spirit that Labour's shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, will be received in Washington this week and Mr Kinnock possibly after him. Washington is nothing if not the home of *realpolitik*.

In this spirit of realism, Americans (despite President Bush's current preoccupation with Germany) will want to know more about Labour's true state of mind on Nato, the British contribution to it and its attitude to the nuclear umbrella. That, and the reality of its policy for the British deterrent, is something on which the voters here also deserve enlightenment. They will not find much by combing Labour's policy documents and statements. It will be a function of the political debate in Britain in the coming months to compel Mr Kinnock and his party to say more.

LAISSEZ-FAIRE PATRIOTISM

The impending defeat of the Communist Party in Croatia next Sunday, which follows its sister party's Easter riots in Slovenia, has implications for the whole political economy of Eastern Europe. These elections are billed as nationalist triumphs and so they are, but they have another dimension too. Proponents of a free-market philosophy will have achieved the peaceful conquest of two provinces — the most advanced in the Balkans — which are preparing to pursue an independent destiny outside the ramshackle, and Serb-dominated, Yugoslav federation. The Slovenes and Croats are ready to face this miniature reincarnation of the Habsburg Empire in order to sink or swim in the more congenial company of Italian or Austrian capitalists.

That national sentiment has already played an important part in Poland, East Germany and Hungary, as well as in the Baltic states, is doubted by no one. Yet central European nationalism — sinister as it seems to liberal Westerners — is an expression of the yearnings of downtrodden people to run their lives in their own way. Hence it is only apparently a paradox that irredentist Romanians, Magyars or Germans now vote for parties which appear to draw their economic inspiration from the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Georgian Edinburgh.

The power of capitalism to tame nationalism is, in the long run, enormous and incomparable. But nations which have suppressed their individualities under socialism for several decades will need time to learn that the new "citizens' state" is no more efficacious a means of their salvation than the old communist one. In these czarized command economies, leaking fast through newly unbolted hatches, time is the scarcest commodity of all.

The handful of indigenous free market economists who are now running some of these countries are uncovering problems undreamt

of in the rarefied seminar rooms of the LSE or Harvard. These victims of socialism have much to teach their more fortunate contemporaries in the West — and social democrats in the West are at last taking heed.

In the latest issue of the journal *Communist Economics*, for instance, two former dissident economists from Czechoslovakia and Poland offer first-class studies of the well-meaning but disastrous reforms of the past decade. Their common problem is made only slightly easier by the fact that, since the articles were written, Vaclav Klaus and Leszek Balcerowicz have become their respective countries' finance ministers.

They inherit a legacy not merely of grim totalitarianism but of high expectations, quack cures and comprehensive disillusionment. As Mr Klaus puts it, "shock therapy" would be an easier and definitely a more reliable solution than prolonged muddling through. In other words, there is no middle way. In such circumstances, *laissez-faire* economists need a heavy dose of pragmatism to get their message across. They need to beat the patriotic drum if they are to retain popularity.

The "capitalist" parties which are making the running in prosperous Slovenia and Croatia — Mr Jozef Pucnik's Demos and General Franjo Tuđman's Croatian Democratic Union — are also responding to the long-standing threat of Slobodan Milošević's Serb nationalism. The latter is rooted in the Titoist partisan past and appeals most to the backward regions.

Slovenia and Croatia may yet become a Balkan Benelux on the fringes of an enlarged European Community, while Mr Milošević maintains the hegemony of the Serbs over an impoverished Macedonia, Montenegro and Albanian rump. That would be a sad end to Yugoslavia. But its capitalist crusaders must be canny politicians, or they will merely reopen imperfectly healed war wounds.

CONSPICUOUS LEISURE

The week after Easter, like the week after Christmas, shows to the world that of all candidates for the title of "English disease", workaholism is not a serious contender. The return to work after the festive break is tentative and gradual, like a national convalescence. It would be wrong, however, to deduce from yesterday's quiet roads and silent offices that the English find working a pain. It is nearer the truth to say they find not working a pleasure.

Not working? A knock on any suburban door this week is likely to be answered by a man with brush in hand and paint in hair. He will have the slightly abstracted air of someone intent on such lofty aims as producing a perfectly painted sunless door. More ambitious souls do their own plumbing and plastering, and all before the garden centre closes, for this is April, when a young man's fancy turns not only to the obvious but also to compost. Before he can present his love with a rose, newly sprung in June, his bed must be mulched, powder forked into its roots, fungicide sprayed on its leaf buds, the arrival of greenfly watched, wind-rock prevented.

What Briton dares call this not working? That is an accountant's way of talking. He may expatiate on the gross annual turnover of the retail DIY sector or the growth rate of the bedding plant industry. But there is more to wealth creation than is dreamt of in such philosophy, namely what happens to the said plants and paint-pots once they are bought. Nobody really believes that work is only work when the worker is paid by somebody else to do it. Our subsistence farming ancestors with their three acres and a cow would have found the distinction meaningless.

Such work is done for the best reason of all,

which is personal satisfaction, and that is the end and purpose of remunerated for "proper" work as well. Britons derive huge enjoyment from the non-pecuniary reward of leisure activity. But in order to hide this fact from economists and foreigners, we allow them to refer to it as amateur, and pretend that such leisure/work is not a serious contribution to the nation's wealth.

That which has great if unquantifiable value to individual citizens is not to be dismissed as mere leisure. There is a mischievous pleasure in knowing that activities which add so much to the quality of life can remain safely outside the reach of bosses and taxmen, because they are too dense to recognize its economic significance. They only know what they can measure, and they cannot measure leisure or pleasure.

Those relative scales of economic success which regularly put the British down among the Italians just because the statistics say so should accordingly be taken with a pinch of Growmore. Statistics not only ignore the black economy. They also ignore this other economy, the peculiarly British green economy, which is one of the glories of the nation.

Britons have chosen to turn as much as they can of their pleasant land into one enormous garden. Many spend much of what is euphemistically termed their "spare" time breaking their backs and bruising their knees to keep it beautiful. They treat their houses in the same way. Along with family life, and by no means unconnected with it, these are among the primary springs of personal contentment. Not rushing back to what officialdom calls "work" is not a sign of national slackness. It is the mark of a nation which does not count all its wealth in cash.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inflation on an upward trend

From Professor Alan Day

Sir, We have been told again and again over the last three years, both by the Government and by most of the economic forecasters, that Britain is about to face a temporary upward "blip" in the inflation rate but that in a few months' time, or at worst next year, inflation will fall back again. Now, once again, we are being told the same thing.

Perhaps things will be different next time, but an explanation of the repeated failures of these promises can easily be found in the standard professional economic literature that arose from the great debate between Keynesians and monetarists — an explanation which deserves more attention than it has received in this country, although most other market-oriented industrial countries are acting as though they have learned the lesson.

The critical relationship is that between the level of unemployment and the acceleration (or deceleration) of inflation. If unemployment is below some "core" or "natural" level, which usually may be around 10 per cent of the labour force in this country, then there is a persistent tendency for inflation to get faster and faster.

The mechanism which causes this to happen is the attempt by sellers of labour or of goods to adjust their selling price to their experience of faster inflation than

they had expected when they last changed their selling price. This adjustment leads to a further acceleration of inflation and further disappointment of expectations, as the sum total of individuals in the economy tries to achieve higher real incomes and expenditure than the economy can produce.

The remedy, painfully learned world-wide in the 70s and early 80s and irresponsibly forgotten by the British Government in the late 80s, is a period in which unemployment has to be higher than the core or natural rate, so that individual expectations about the real incomes that can be achieved are forced downwards. Unless we are very lucky indeed, we shall continue to see underlying inflation on an upward trend, until the lesson is learned and applied.

Mr Michael Howard, the Secretary for Employment, is regrettably stating precisely the reverse of the truth in claiming that the latest reduction in unemployment is testimony to the continuing basic strength of the economy (report, April 13). It is an indicator of the Government's continuing failure to get inflation back under control.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
Chart Sutton,
Maidstone, Kent.
April 13.

Sadly, wise chief officers and experienced senior assistant governors are no more. The few who remain saw their career futures non-existent and their job titles reduced to something akin to a postal code. Any organisation relies heavily on the experience and skills of its middle management. When that level of management is absent then polarisation of the other two levels is a corollary.

Whilst it is true that recruiting of prison staff has reached record levels, over the past few years, it is also true to say that the prison service has reached record levels of inexperience.

The newly recruited prison officer of today has never been more vulnerable, as far as he or she is of adequate role models in middle management, and led by senior managers who prefer a seat office in Whitehall to the Governor's desk in some Victorian hell-hole.

Yours sincerely,
J. ALDRIDGE-GOULT,
Quarry Cottage,
131 Wakeham,
Portland, Dorset.
April 9.

justice. If leaves out of sight, however, the essential fact that a lot of these "heads" are unable to pay, even if they find the principle attractive and would like to do so.

Yours sincerely,
ROSEMARY ATTACK,
Flat 1, Farnborough Close,
Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr P. A. Philpot

Sir, As expected I have received my community charge bill (1990-91). In the envelope there were the following:

1. An advertisement from our local theatre for the Mr Men, Postman Pat, Yogi Bear, etc.

2. A leaflet showing where my £450 was going.

3. A bill for £450.

4. A direct debit form.

5. A wall chart containing a year planner (starting from April 1990, ending in 1991) and some local advertisements for, amongst others, a solicitor, a private hospital, a hairdresser, a veterinary surgeon, a jeweller and an undertaker.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL A. PHILPOT,

23 Poynes Road,

Horley, Surrey.

April 11.

name and number and telephoned with a request for 20 of each of the forms. I was told they could only send me 100.

We may have cause to start an action at any time, so I decided that, despite the wastage for the country, I had no choice but to ask for the sets of 100 forms.

What has gone wrong? This is a small instance, but it doesn't give one confidence that the legal system is being made cheaper.

Yours faithfully,
G. V. BULL,
Wright and Bull (Solicitors),
4 Blythbury Close,
Woburn, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

the many attempts to rewrite the National Anthem.

At the conclusion of her Majesty's Coronation service in 1953, two verses of the National Anthem were sung: the two verses printed in the eight books referred to above, beginning with the lines "God save our gracious Queen" and "Thy choicest gifts in store". These are the verses most commonly used.

But for some the words are no matter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1931, Mr Philip Snowden, declared in Parliament that the words did not signify, and that only the tune was the National Anthem.

Composers have been moved to include it in their works: Beethoven, as your leading article remarked (April 11), wrote Variations on the National Anthem.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01) 782 5006.

Teachers in control of schools

From Dr P. L. P. Clarke

Sir, You suggest that in complaining about the mass of paper thrown at the schools teachers are, in some way, being obstructive. What neither the DES nor, if I may say so, you, Sir, seem to realise is that the more administrative work teachers are required to do the less time and energy they can give to their job — teaching.

Control of management cannot simply be handed over without introducing an appropriate non-teaching staff to support teachers. For example, in a large secondary school, an office manager, paid at least twice the salary of the present school secretary, is needed: yet has this been taken into account in calculating the main grant? The independent schools know all about the importance of an administrative structure: hence their *burma*.

Yours faithfully,
P. L. P. CLARKE,
7 Pymtree,
Thorpe Bay, Essex.
April 11.

From Mr Stuart Sexton

Sir, I addressed a conference of 100 or so headteachers well and before LMS (local management of schools) became official Government policy, advocating that principle. One headteacher stood up part way through my speech and angrily exclaimed, "the trouble with you, Sexton, is that you are trying to impose freedom!" Yours faithfully,
STUART SEXTON
(Director, Education Unit,
Institute of Economic Affairs,
Waringham Park School,
Waringham Common,
Waringham, Surrey.
April 11.

mentored and inefficient health services for older people, I have studied and written extensively for our "home market" on the virtues of British geriatric medicine.

It is accordingly with great concern that I caution against the current NHS reform proposals which, in the interest of privatising and marketing medical services, would fragment the remarkable legacy of comprehensive care for older people fashioned by Professor Exton-Smith and his peers. (In brief, don't do it).

WILLIAM H. BARKER
(Associate Professor of Gerontology and Community Medicine),
University of Rochester Medical Center,
Box 644,
Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

As an academic physician from the US, where the private market model produces highly frag-

War horses

From Mr Cornelis J. de Jong

Sir, Apropos your report and photograph (March 29) and the letters (April 4, 16) about Napoleon's charger Marengo, we have in our grounds the grave of another of his chargers called Jaffa. The grave is marked by a 4 ft pillar of Wealden sandstone on which the original inscription read: "Under this stone lies Jaffa, the famous charger of Napoleon, aged 37 years."

The carving has long since weathered away, but the inscription is duplicated on a bronze disc fixed to the flat top of the pillar in the beginning of the century.

Jaffa, a grey Arab, was put down because of old age, probably in the year 1829, which would make him senior to Marengo by three years.

According to one account, Jaffa was brought to Glassenbury by a Frenchman who, between 1815 and 1830, appears to have rented the house from its then owners, the ancient family of Roberts.

While Marengo stands upright in his museum case, Jaffa rests more peacefully in Kentish earth. Yours faithfully,

DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens,
Cambridge.

April 9.

A little to the south the message

is a bit more positive. Stirling is not the jewel in the crown, but at least it is the pearl in the ear, and Edinburgh and Glasgow are harmoniously joined (for once) by a string of pearls. North-east England gets a shoulder that looks distinctly cold, but the east in general forms the backbone and the North-west is granted the heart — or is the prognosis, more pessimistically, bust.

Aggressively folded arms hold out little comfort for Wales, the South-west gets the boot put in, while the knees are carefully poised for a swift jab at Eire's vitals.

Hampshire is uniquely favoured, being blessed with the promise implicit in the cornucopian handbag. It's Londoners I'm really sorry for . . .

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEVENSON (Director),
Centre of Scottish Studies,
University of Aberdeen,
Taylor Building,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen.
April 12.

Measure for measure

From Mr F. Ellis

Sir, About 10 years ago, a Swedish visitor told me that Swedes were saying that metrification was being introduced in Britain inch by inch.

It still seems to be true.
Yours



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, attended a charity premiere of "The Hunt for Red October" in aid of the Trust and the Scottish

International Education Trust at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Commander Alastair Watson RN and Miss Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will open the annual drug conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Hutton Hall, Hutton, Lancashire, at 11.40; will visit G.E.C. Alsthom Traction, Strand Road, at 1.10; the Riversway Docklands Development at 2.15; and the T.F.L. Group, Interior Designers, Riversway, Preston, at 2.35.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, will attend the launch of the new uniform at Westminster Central Hall at 1.45.

Princess Alexandra will attend a concert at St James's Palace at 7.30 in aid of St Loye's College for Training Disabled People for Employment, Exeter.

Prince Michael of Kent, as patron, will attend a meeting of the Trustees of The David Shepherd Conservation Foundation, Godalming, at 5.30.

Birthdays today

Sir Walter Clegg, former MP; Mr Roger de Grey, president, Royal Academy; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, Scottish Tourist Board.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Fraser and The Hon Victoria Cameron. The engagement is announced between James Amand, son of Sir Charles and Lady Fraser, of Inveresk, Midlothian, and Victoria Christian, daughter of Lord and Lady Cameron, of Lochbroon, Edinburgh.

Mr J.W. Gunston and Miss R.G. Elliott.

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Sir Richard Gunston, BT, of Wadhurst, and Mrs Joan Gunston, of Somers West, South Africa, and Rosalind, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Elliott, of Bowers Mill House, near Guildford.

Mr T.H. Lightfoot and Miss B.J. Ferguson.

The engagement is announced between Thomas, only son of Sir Christopher Lightfoot, BT, of Direleton, East Lothian, and the late Lady Lightfoot, and Belinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Ferguson, of Scotstoun, Blyth Bridge, Peeblesshire.

Mr A.R.G. Way and Miss A.R. Goodwin.

The engagement is announced between Antony, only son of Sir Richard and Lady Way, of Shaldon, Hampshire, and Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Goodwin, of Priory Marston, Warwickshire.

Mr P.G. Clarburt and Miss J.G.T. Martin.

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Clarburt, of The Old Rectory, St Mary's Hoo, Kent, and Justine, younger daughter of Mr C.L.G. Marin and Mrs V.J. Martin, of Steppingstone, Wrotham, Kent.

Mr D.W.G. Enderby and Miss N.E.A. Stiles.

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of the late Mr Roy Enderby, and Mrs Rosemary Simak, of Spring Grove, Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Bebe, (Nighean) second daughter of Mr Rupert Butler and Mrs Ian Barnes, of 42 de Vere Gardens, Kensington.

57: the Marquess of Donegall, 74; Miss Sylvia Fisher, soprano, 80; Sir Peter Hordern, MP, 61; Mr Peter Jeremy, actor, 61; Lord Leathersland, 92; Lord Mass of Barnsley, 66; Miss Mayley Mills, actress, 44; Rev Dominic Milroy, OSB, headmaster, Ampleforth College, 58; Revs Francis Plant of Wimble, 67; the Right Rev Dr E.W. Peters, former Bishop of Elv, 82; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 84.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Francis Baring, banker, Larkbear, Devon, 1740; Louis-Adolphe Thiers, founder and 1st president of the Third Republic of France 1871-73, Marseilles, 1797; George H. Lewes, philosopher, dramatist and scientist, London, 1817; Antero de Quental, poet, Ponta Delgada, Azores, 1842; Leopold Stowkowski, conductor, London, 1882.

DEATHS: John Leland, antiquary, London, 1552; John Foxe, martyrologist, London, 1587; Erasmus Darwin, physician and poet, Derby, 1802; Sir Robert Smirke, architect, Cheltenham, 1867; Ottorino Respighi, composer, Rome, 1936; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1940; Sir John Fleming, electrical engineer, Sidmouth, 1945.

Duncan Alexander Stirling, Chairman of Westminster Bank from 1962 to 1969 and first Chairman of the newly merged National Westminster Bank, died on April 15, aged 90. He was born on October 6, 1899.

TO DUNCAN Stirling goes the credit for being one of the major architects of the epoch-making merger between National Provincial and Westminster Banks. The resulting group, National Westminster, stands with Barclays as one of Britain's two dominant banks and is a monument to Stirling's patient skill in managing people.

A Highlander from Ross-shire, Stirling was born of and married into Scottish military families: his father was Major William Stirling and in 1926 he married Lady Marjorie Murray, whose father, the eighth Earl of Dumfries, was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Stirling was educated at Harrow and New College, Oxford, with a year's war service with the Coldstream Guards. He went south to make his career in the City, starting as a trainee with Price Waterhouse, the accountants. However, he soon joined the merchant bank of H. S. Lefevre & Co., becoming a partner in 1929.

In the 1930s he broadened his interests. In 1935 he was elected to the boards of London Life Association, Westminster Bank and its subsidiary, Westminster Foreign Bank. Those appointments marked the beginning of a working relationship which lasted until his death. He had lunch with Lord Alexander, the present chairman of National Westminster, only a few weeks ago and dazzled his audience with his command of current banking questions.

The latter half of the 1960s was a crucial period in Stirling's career. From 1964 to 1966 he was President of Institute of Bankers, and from 1966 to 1968 he was simultaneously Chairman of the Committee of London Clearing Banks and President of the British Bankers' Association.

These roles placed him at the heart of three national banking issues.

The first was the creation of a joint negotiating machinery between the banks, their staff associations and the National Union of Bank Employees. Secondly, Stirling was embroiled in the monetary and banking implications of the 14 per cent devaluation of the pound in November, 1967. And, thirdly, he had to draw the banks' views together on

OBITUARIES

MARCOS ROBLES

Marcos Aurelio Robles, who was President of Panama between 1964 and 1968, died aged 84 in Miami on April 14. He was born on November 5, 1905.

WHEN Marcos Robles was President of Panama, his time in office was almost entirely dominated by the dispute between his tiny country and its mighty neighbour, the United States, over the Panama Canal — still in its essence unresolved. Robles knew how to use Panamanian nationalistic fervour, but he also sought to lay the basis with the Johnson Administration in Washington for a new treaty governing the Canal Zone more in accordance with his country's sovereignty demands.

Those efforts in the end did not find acceptance over either side and it was only in the 1970s under President Carter and General Torrijos that fresh attempts achieved a new Canal Zone Treaty and a better modus vivendi.

Robles took office shortly after one of the periodic flareups when there was rioting and death on Panama City streets followed up by the government denouncing the 1903 Canal Treaty, breaking off relations with Washington and branding the Americans as "aggressors" before the Security Council.

Angry disputes over flying the Panamanian flag on local American installations was the ostensible issue, but this only symbolised the administration's abiding discontent over its dependent relationship with "Uncle Sam." Washington believed agents of Cuba's Fidel Castro had



stirred up Panama's student protesters.

After tempers had cooled President Robles and Johnson agreed to negotiate over a new Canal treaty. By 1965 an outline for an agreement in principle was reached by the two sides. Provisions of the old 1903 Canal Treaty were abrogated and Panama's sovereignty over the Canal Zone was to be recognised.

Panama, which then was drawing about one sixth of its gross national product from the waterway, and much more indirectly, deserved both a greater share of the revenues and larger US dues. These last, even after a 1955 improvement, still only amounted to \$1.9 million annually.

The agreement also envisaged a second canal to supplement the first and to be built in Panama's territory. A second stage in the negotiations foreseen the US dues being increased to between \$20m and \$30m annually to return for Washington keeping its military installations on the isthmus.

By then, however, Robles's four-year term was almost up and his long-standing chief rival in Panama's politics, Dr Arnulfo Arias, was fighting to become President for a third time. The steady proposals were denounced in the election campaign as inadequate and were destined never to be submitted for ratification by either government.

Unlike Arias, a rich coffee planter and landowner, Robles was a self-made man.

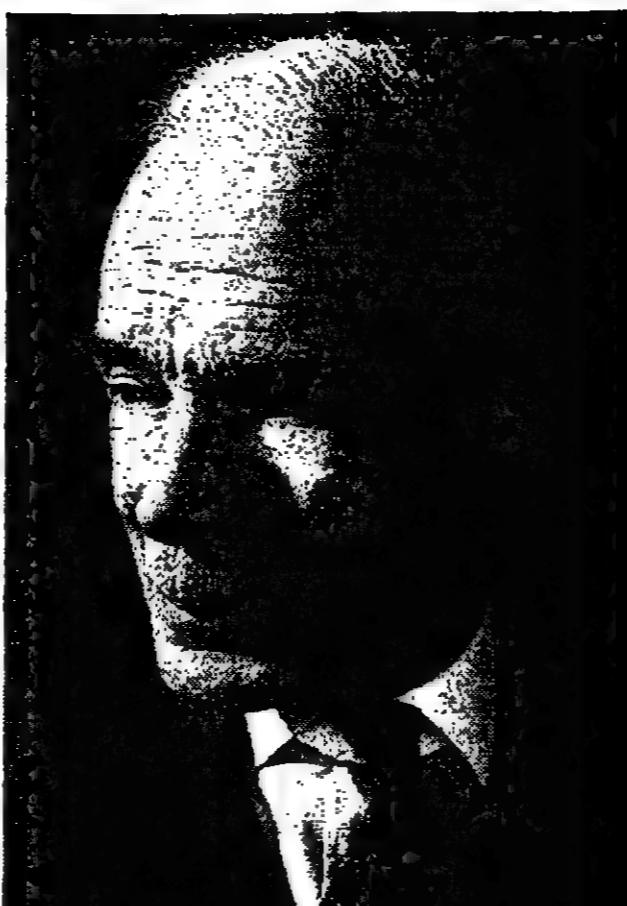
The secret of his success leading Panama's Liberal party lay in combining support from the old ruling families, who saw in him a "safe candidate", and from the broad mass of rural voters. Implementation of his generous electoral promises of reform to the latter was hamstrung, however, by the former's resistance.

His presidency ended in disarray in early 1968 when he was overthrown by the National Assembly — at a session boycotted by government deputies — for allegedly violating the constitution.

Robles countered by saying he would stay in office until completing his full term that autumn which, with help from a friendly National Guard chief, he did. There were bloody clashes between the two party leaders' supporters, but Arias won, only to be deposed after 11 days in office by a military coup.

Robles spent the rest of his life living in Miami.

DUNCAN STIRLING



man of National Westminster, only a few weeks ago and dazzled his audience with his command of current banking questions.

The latter half of the 1960s was a crucial period in Stirling's career. From 1964 to 1966 he was President of Institute of Bankers, and from 1966 to 1968 he was simultaneously Chairman of the Committee of London Clearing Banks and President of the British Bankers' Association.

KEITH NEAL

William Keith Neal, who died on April 10 aged 84, was generally regarded as the foremost antique firearms expert in Britain. He was born in Hertfordshire on November 11, 1905.

KEITH Neal's collection of old guns was the finest in private hands in the country. He wrote magisterial books, including (with Major D.H. L. Back) *Great British Gunmakers, 1740-1790*. He was three times master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers.

Keith Neal was the son of a Baptist minister. The family's Hertfordshire house was within sight of the London & North Western Railway and this sparked Keith Neal's collecting instinct. He was an enthusiastic engine-spotter and also became a collector of ceramic and glass insulators from railway telegraph poles; in 1982 he published a book on this recondite aspect of industrial archaeology.

He was fascinated by guns as a child — once by a fake Deringer pistol smuggled into class by a boy who was with him at Berkhampstead preparatory school. Keith Neal obtained the "Deringer" in exchange for a penknife, and bought some .22 cartridges for it.

After firing it in the garden at home, he carelessly left a cartridge inside. Months later, he shot the bullet, by accident, into his leg. After X-rays, a doctor recommended it should remain there.

After Berkhampstead and the City of London School, he went into the City in an uncle's business, but contracted tuberculosis and moved to Bath.

Life in and around Bath brought Keith Neal the chance to shoot and to look for old guns. Bath had good antique shops.

In 1930, the London gun dealer Frank Russell showed him a large collection of guns he had just bought from the Dowager Countess of Aylesford. It was a unique assemblage of long arms dating from 1725 to 1795, the accumulation of a sporting family who had preserved their obsolete guns in deer grease instead of getting rid of them. Keith Neal was allowed to buy just one gun, a flintlock sporting rifle by John Twiss of London. Later, through a legacy from an aunt, he was able to buy the best of

the rest; but meanwhile Russell was selling several fine examples to other collectors and dealers. Much of *Great British Gunmakers* is the story of how Keith Neal clawed back those firearms, over a lifetime.

At the outbreak of war he was disqualified from joining the armed forces by his history of tuberculosis. But in 1940 he made the first of several trips to the United States (before America entered the war) with a shipment of antique firearms. He sold them for currency for the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The money was used to buy modern handguns for use in intelligence work. Britain was making bombs rather than concentrating on the manufacture of automatic pistols and revolvers.

Shortly after marrying Jane Erskine Murray in 1947 Neal and his family moved into Bishopstrow House at Warminster, a bow-fronted Regency mansion. Keith Neal decided to line up with gun-racks the rooms in which the family ate and lived.

In 1976 the decision was made to go to Guernsey. The expense of maintaining Bishopstrow House was too

great. Neal's passionate desire was to keep the collection together, not sell it piecemeal to pay for house repairs. But there were the dangers of living with a large collection of guns in a Georgian building with sash windows. He was not prepared to turn the house into an arsenal.

Keith Neal was happy in Guernsey. Where he lived was unspoilt, old-fashioned and near the sea. A succession of firearms collectors and dealers visited him there.

He was not a sniping sportsman — more a figure in the eighteenth or nineteenth-century tradition of his heroes, Colonel Peter Hawker and Captain Horatio Ross. He found it more exciting to take a muzzle-loading flintlock and shoot a rabbit than go out with a modern gun.

Keith Neal's memorials will be his scholarship and his collection. But neither of these was his main concern. In *Great British Gunmakers* he wrote: "My interest in gun collecting has always been that of a shooter first and a collector afterwards. All my life, my first thought on finding a gun has been does it fit me? Can I shoot with it?"

University news

Glasgow

From the Science & Engineering Research Council

£77,033 to Professors D.J. Sherratt & M.R. Brooker (Genetics) to investigate F13 RES synthesis and strand exchange in transposon reovirus site-specific recombination.

From the Scottish Home & Health Department

£55,337 to Professor J.H. Adams (Pharmacology) & Professor E.J. Bennett (Neurosurgeon) for a study of the pathogenesis of potentially preventable brain damage.

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Differing styles: Pierre Boulez (top), analytical exactitude and Gallic intellect; and Mariss Jansons, Latvian-born specialist in subtlety

Top conductors are being signed up fast, but not by the London Philharmonic. Richard Morrison reports

Maestro, a podium awaits

As games of musical chairs go, the exercise that has occupied the world's leading conductors and orchestras for the last two or three years has preferred outlanders great entertainment. The game usually requires fewer chairs than participants, but a piquant feature of this version was that a large number of vacant chairs claimed rather fewer outstanding maestros.

Did the conductors therefore hold all the advantages? Not really. Running the game were more shadowy figures: a handful of record company bosses and agents in Hamburg, Tokyo and New York. Their names are unknown to the average concertgoer, but increasingly they decide who plays what, where, when and for how much.

That is the classical music business, 1990. One might expect the greatest conductors, at least, to control their own destinies, but "business" considerations often seem more pressing. There is a neat symbolism in the fact that Herbert von Karajan was entertaining Japanese business associates on his last day alive.

One by one, the finest European and American orchestras have clawed their way through this Byzantine selection and negotiation process, making appointments which have mostly swept away a durable old guard and brought in younger men. The Berlin Philharmonic did avoid the main "music business" candidates; instead, it made the brilliant choice of Claudio Abbado as Karajan's successor. The Amsterdam Concertgebouw, rather more riskily, opted for the heavy Italianate manner of Riccardo Chailly to succeed Bertrand Hafner.

Daniel Barenboim, rebuffed and wounded by the Bastille Opera fiasco in Paris, emerged to accept the challenge of following Sir Georg Solti in Chicago, and in Los Angeles, Andre Previn's bitter resignation from a reputed \$500,000 music directorship has been followed, to the Americans' musical press's bewilderment, by the appointment of Esa-Pekka Salonen, a 32-year-old Finn. Finally, last week, the New York Philharmonic announced Kurt Masur as Zubin Mehta's successor. That should be a battle worth

watching: a bunch of players whose favourite hobby has been ganging up on their music directors, faced by a shrewd, highly experienced East German who has ruled the Leipzig Gewandhaus with an iron fist for 20 years.

There is, of course, one notable omission from this list. The London Philharmonic has been without a principal conductor longer than any other orchestra mentioned above — since Klaus Tennstedt resigned for health reasons in 1987. Since then it has relied on a strong roster of guest conductors. Now, however, the LPO must choose a music director, and choose quickly. As the South Bank Board has made clear, that is a prerequisite of the LPO being installed as the Festival Hall's resident orchestra in 1992.

Moreover, the new music director will enjoy greater powers than any conductor of a London orchestra has ever had. One should not underestimate the extent to which the LPO has dropped its long-cherished self-governing status to achieve this. He will, in effect, determine the shape of concert life in Britain's premier musical venue for years to come.

The thinking at both the South Bank and the London Philharmonic is that many crucial issues still have to be resolved before a "package" can be laid at the feet of a chosen maestro. For instance, the Arts Council has yet to say whether the LPO's new resident status at the Festival Hall qualifies it for special funding. A lurking possibility is that all the London orchestras might be devolved to Greater London Arts for funding must be dispelled: no conductor of any eminence would tolerate being answerable to a body so identified with the "cultural arts" ethos. The LPO's working pattern (more specifically, its rehearsing pattern) in the Festival Hall also needs to be firmly established.

A residency contract between LPO and South Bank could be signed by September. Not one expects a music director announcement before then. Yet there are signs already that venue and orchestra could be at variance on the music director question. The South Bank's artistic director, Nicholas Snowman, primarily sees the residency as an orchestral adventure, high quality if possible,

his Birmingham orchestra into its new hall, and still arrive in London for the LPO's residency.

Sir Georg Solti: Aged 77. Becoming music director at the South Bank for a fixed term would undoubtedly fit in with the indefatigable Solti's idea of a peaceful retirement. He might also relish the post as a crowning glory of his contribution to British musical life. His musical clout would certainly set the Festival Hall buzzing.

Franz Welser-Möst: Aged 29. Too inexperienced yet to be a serious contender, perhaps — except that the LPO has kept faith with this gifted Austrian, and his interpretations grow steadily more mature.

Ten names for the South Bank

Pierre Boulez: Aged 65. His BBC Symphony Orchestra years gave London its most stimulating Proms ever; his links with living composers are unparalleled; his interpretations of the classics always provocative and awesomely analytical. Tied to IRCAM in Paris, however, and British musicians do not relate comfortably to his Gallic intellectualism.

Christoph von Dohnányi: Aged 60. Currently directing the superb Cleveland Orchestra; a serious musician with a reputation for imposing a severe, somewhat humourless regime of discipline on orchestras. He would give London intelligent programmes, immaculately prepared — but would not be the players' choice.

Mariis Jansons: Aged 47. His work with the Oslo Philharmonic has revealed him as an orchestral trainer of exquisite subtlety. Lat-

vian-born, Leningrad-trained, as yet no reputation for adventure.

Zubin Mehta: Aged 53. Still has the Israel PO, but has left New York. The London Philharmonic offered him the music directorship in 1988, and were turned down, but the new South Bank residency may change his mind. British critics, however, would give his flashy, none-too-probing interpretations a rough ride.

Richard Mutz: Aged 48. His has La Scala, Milan, but will relinquish the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1992. His music-making seems to have renounced some of its

former fire in favour of a limousine-like plushness, but his name still packs halls and sells discs.

Seiji Ozawa: Aged 54. Graceful, charismatic, charming and only slightly inscrutable; Ozawa has been in Boston for 17 years; both sides may be restless. Too fine a conductor to languish long without a new tenure.

Simon Rattle: Aged 35. For Britain's finest conductor to come to the helm of the capital's music-making would seem obvious, but Rattle's loyalty to Birmingham has survived many succulent lures already. He could, however, lead

former fire in favour of a limousine-like plushness, but his name still packs halls and sells discs.

Jasper Rees:

Brash display of showmanship

ROCK

David Sinclair

Sonny Sharrock
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE Knitting Factory tour reached London in ragged shape. The six bands, currently touring across Europe under the banner of the tiny New York club where they are all regular performers, are said to represent the mutant form of experimental rock-jazz that is currently to be found at the cutting edge of Manhattan's avant-garde "downtown" scene.

Having recorded in the Sixties with the likes of Don Cherry, Wayne Shorter and Miles Davis, Sharrock has more recently become better known as the guitarist in Bill Laswell's metal jazz conglomerate Last Exit.

An earlier set by the Japanese-American quartet Bosho had been full of mystery and promise, but the hole in the middle of the programme (three acts per show) threw a greater emphasis on headliner Sonny Sharrock than was perhaps intended.

Having recorded in the Sixties with the likes of Don Cherry, Wayne Shorter and Miles Davis, Sharrock has more recently become better known as the guitarist in Bill Laswell's metal jazz conglomerate Last Exit.

The rollercoaster melody and white noise solo of "Dick Dogs" — a highlight of the strangely excellent *Live in New York* album — were punched out with reasonable aplomb, but elsewhere Sharrock

seemed to overplay his hand, abandoning melodies in favour of frenetic, disorganized scrawls across the fretboard.

The twin drumming of Lance Carter and Abe Speler was powerful but scrappy and too often wasted on straight four-in-the-bar rock patterns played in unison. Dave Snyder's keyboard playing had a long-hair feel to it and bassist Marvin Gibbs ploughed through a fuzz-distorted base solo of a hacked nature.

Above all, the sense of mission that this tour supposedly embodies was entirely absent; as so much enviable talent was sacrificed on the altar of brash, misplaced showmanship.

Jasper Rees:

Mandela Concert
Wembley Stadium

THERE was only one roof-raiser at this gig, and he has never sold an album in 71 years on the planet. Were John Lennon brought back to life and the Beatles reunited, they could count themselves lucky to receive a tenth of the ovation accorded to Nelson Mandela on Monday night at Wembley Stadium.

Some musicians were there too, and, at least in this column, they deserve mention.

The creditable thing about the International Tribute for Nelson Mandela was that, for all its enormous significance and for all the vastness of its worldwide audience, there was the minimum of the mable-roaring which often mars stadium rock events. The proceedings were summed up when, some way into the show, Ben E. King, one of the compilers, whacked the audience into a rock 'n' roll frenzy to introduce Terence Trent D'Arby, who came on to sing a slow chant.

There was a lot of that — songs dedicated to the concert's special guest, full of respect and warmth and earnestness. Rock used to be about rebellion and pumping up the volume, but it grew up a long time ago. In a venue as cavernous

Reign of the orator



Shawman: Sonny Sharrock



Documentary fascination: *Anders als die Anderen*, 1920

directed and acted in *Geschlecht in Fesseln* (Sex in Chains), an attack on the prison system which relates the tragedy of a prisoner who falls in love with a fellow-inmate, while his wife falls in love with his boss.

Contemporary British films

were much in evidence. Turin honoured Derek Jarman with a complete retrospective, a book surveying his achievement and a special award for his work. Surprisingly, he has now made some 50 films, including shorts and videos, and a new film, *The Garden*, which is due soon.

Jarman's influence is evident in the baroque visual adventures of a

Festival that dares to speak its name

David Robinson reports on a festival of films with homosexual themes, in Turin

It is a matter of civic pride for every major Italian town to have its own film festival. Turin, as befits its cultural standing, has three: a youth film festival, a sports film festival and — unique in continental Europe — a festival of films concerned with homosexuality. The fifth homosexual film festival, just ended, had the provocative slogan "Da Sodoma a Hollywood", and a cheeky logo showing Charlie Chaplin flirting with an unresponsible Frankenstein monster.

The festival shows how considerable the annual production of films reflecting homosexual issues or sensibilities is. This year Turin found more than 30 titles (including shorts), in addition to retrospectives of the work of Derek Jarman and silent films about homosexuality.

A new phenomenon is the acceptance of homosexuality as a theme for film-makers in Eastern Europe, where for 40 years socialist regimes dismissed the subject as decadent. *Coming Out*, by the East German Heiner Carow, had already won the Silver Award at the Berlin Film Festival. Its premiere was on the day that the Berlin Wall was breached, and its writer, Wolfram Witt, sees it as a reflection of the problems facing the new Europe: "To find oneself, to accept the contradictions of one's own being, implies a great assumption of responsibility."

By Western standards, this content is not new, but the film is made with professional confidence, as a mainstream commercial film, and has broken box-office records in Germany. It is the story of a young teacher whose ambivalent sexual feelings surface, resulting in the disruption of

young Greek, Constantine Giannaris, whose credits include *Jean Genet is Dead* and *Troyens*, which was co-produced by the Arts Council and the Greek Film Centre, and celebrates the life and poetry of Constantine Caffav.

A more characteristically British approach is evident in the naturalism and irony — something between *Falling Comedy* and *Brief Encounter* — of Richard Kwieciowski's *Flames of Passion*. Co-produced by the British Film Institute and Channel Four, it is a poker-faced recital of the erotic daydreams of a strait-laced communist.

Commemorate the Dunkirk spirit with The Times 50th Anniversary Tour.

1990 is the fiftieth anniversary of the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'. To celebrate, readers of *The Times* are invited to join a unique two day tour, in the company of Col 'Pat' Porteous VC, who was evacuated at Dunkirk.

It will be an unforgettable occasion. Literally thousands of Dunkirk veterans will be returning to parade in the town to pay their respects to those comrades who did not return.

The RAF will pay their tribute in a dramatic Fly Past, a wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Dunkirk Cenotaph and a Ceremony of Remembrance will be held at The Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing.

THE TIMES DUNKIRK ANNIVERSARY TOUR APPLICATION FORM 26-27 MAY 1990

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The closing date is Friday, April 27, and numbers are limited to the first 200 applicants.

THE TIMES

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Frank Muir: he does voice-overs but is choosy about them

Being perfectly Frank

Joseph Connolly talks to writer and broadcaster Frank Muir about his latest book project, *The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose*, and the demise of the television show *Call My Bluff*

Frank Muir is enjoying life hugely. Just turning 70, he has launched his new *Oxford Book of Humorous Prose* in New York, and is now squaring up gamely to a rigorous schedule of speeches, lunches, chat shows and book signings here.

The book bears a subtitle: "A Conducted Tour by Frank Muir". He seems the ideal choice to pilot readers through this gorgeously fertile territory with a casually proffered erudition and a generous wit.

It is a massive and enlightening anthology. More to the point, it is fun. The material is all drawn from English-language writers – it was the English, as Muir makes clear in the sparkling introduction, who invented humorous prose – and the angles range from the printer William Caxton (admittedly not a cove one would cleave to if a rolicking good time were the order of the day) chronologically and beginning onward unto the Master, P.G. Wodehouse. Muir has been thorough: the book was 17 years in the making.

"When I started, I simply sat rather numbly. There was an

empty folder to hand, and I thought, 'Aha! I shall use this empty folder.' The first job was to amass – all the stuff one *must* use, and all the things one *might* use. I was not put off famous bits because everyone knows them so well. That is a measure of how good they are. Then there was all the business of little paper slips and photocopying; but one thing leads to another – after a while you sort of know."

As one potters through the book, one cannot help noticing that the rude bits become, well, rather ruder. How did Muir view this development? "Well actually," he says, "I'm very squeamish about this sort of thing – I don't really like it, but it is a development and an enormously important one."

"A few surprises were thrown up here – it was extraordinary how compassionate Leslie Thomas could be when actually being rather rude. And wasn't it good that the bit from Martin Amis' *The Rachel Papers* was so like *Adrian Mole*!"

Although Frank Muir is a consummate book man, it is more for his television work that he is

nationally famous. I told him that I could never see a certain sickly chocolate product without hearing his voice gurgling lusciously about it.

This seemed to please him inordinately. "I really enjoy all the adverts. It's easy to do. It pays. I need money to subsidize the sort of books I choose to do."

Candid is too small a word for this, but it is very much a part of being Frank. "But I'm choosy," he insists – at once recalling a cat food voice-over of long ago. "I was asked to do *Odor-Eaters* – you know, those things you put in your socks – but I didn't really want to. Bit much. And I turned down an offer from *Perrier* to launch their new production. I think they wanted to buy integrity."

And what of *Call My Bluff*? "I think the BBC has chopped it," is the alarming reply. "I discussed it with young Yentob and said 'let's get it back to what it really is: a *foley* programme'. But nothing has come of it."

"They are using Arthur Marshall's death as an excuse. I think I wanted Joanna Lumley to take his place – she's so terribly good at it."

Muir will probably be popping up on chat shows soon. "But of course they're not chat shows because nobody chats. And some of them will do anything to avoid mentioning your book when it is obvious that that is why you are there. Denis Norden was telling me that sometimes not only does a researcher fax you the questions, but then they fax you the answers: this enables the host to insert his practised little half-quips."

So, then, whether Frank Muir? Could he be described as bereft, now that his time is about to hit the classic bookshop in encouragingly healthy numbers? "Bereft?" he muses, in a voice that sounds bereft rather in the way that a London double-decker bus strikes the eye as being a pleasing shade of duck-egg blue.

Then he goes on: "I have given it some thought – not a great deal of thought, but a little thought. I simply feel like a mastodon who has given birth to her calf, and is disinclined to have another, just

practised little half-quips."

Placebo or remedy?

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

THE flying doctor has at last found himself a hospital. Sir John Harvey-Jones, peripatetic management counsellor extraordinaire and star of *Troubleshooter* (BBC 2), landed last night on the Shropshire Health Authority, where they have a waiting list of 8,000, are overspending on an £80 million budget, and have to close at least three medical centres.

Sir John, followed by his ever-faithful camera crew, goes around like a killer panda, simultaneously cuddly and lethal. On brisk tours of the bedridden, he inquires after their health much in the gruff fashion of the late James Robertson Justice. The implication is that life would be easier if they would just pick up their beds and walk, thereby solving the hospital's overcrowding problems.

Like Lucinda Lambton, Sir John is proving a natural television star for the 1990s because of his breathtaking habit of saying to the camera the first thing that comes into his head. "This is the Nightingale Ward," he told us of one particularly derelict hospital. "And by the look of it, Florence is still working here." An industrial fixer trying to quantify the costs of health on a limited budget, Sir John zooms around in his Volvo Estate like a travelling witch-doctor. He bestows on his bewildered clients advice that they seem largely unenthusiastic about having to accept.

Trying to apply Thatcherite principles of self-reliance to unwieldy old hospitals with 8,000 people waiting for beds proved a tough challenge even for Harvey-Jones, who finally saw the local health chairman off the premises without many of their problems being solved. He is, in the end, able to diagnose the illness but unable to supply a cure.

Earlier on BBC 2, *Army Lives* continued to survey the weird social structures of one of the last enclosed and self-perpetuating tribes of modern Britain. Without a major war to fight, officers and men are now principally engaged on such home-front battles as boxing matches and minor infringements of discipline, while their wives agonize over the dinner parties and who is to be allowed above the salt.

Nobody expects there to be whole communities of accountants' wives or engine-drivers' wives, so quite why soldiers' wives see themselves as having to belong to a platoon of their own is unclear. If the opportunities are there, the sooner they all go out and find jobs unconnected to the military occupation of their husbands, the easier their lives are likely to become.

Doubtless Sir John would have some equally ready advice. That is another great thing about television: freedom to interfere in the lives of others and no need to live with the consequences.

Overture and beginners, please, just one more time

Simon Tait traces the peregrinations of the Players' Theatre Club, opening its new theatre tonight

themselves in straight from the street on the same level.

"We're dedicated to the 19th-century tradition, which we consider the best and from which there is an endless supply of material," said Reginald Woolley, who, as a painter-turned-designer, was taken on before the last war by the co-founder of the Players, Leonard Sachs (later the famously effervescent chairman of BBC TV's *The Good Old Days*). Now 77, Woolley is one of three directors of the company.

The title of his new show, *Late Joy*, co-directed with Geoffrey Brown (the Players' musical director), pays homage to the company's first production, in the early 19th century, a comedian called Evans who acquired an hotel in King Street, Covent Garden, from a Mr. Joy, and turned it into London's first Song and Supper Room. For years it was known as "Evans's... Late Joy's".

It became "The Players'" early this century, and in 1937 Sachs, with Peter Ridgeley, formed The Players' Theatre Club, the aim of which was to revive Victorian

entertainment. The club spent the war in the premises of the notorious El Morocco club in Albemarle Street, and moved to the derelict Villiers Street site in 1946.

Like the Windmill, The Players' launched a legion of talented entertainers, from Peter Ustinov and Bernard Miles to Eleanor Summerfield (whom Sachs married), Clive Dunn, Hattie Jacques, even Elizabeth Welch and Prunella Scales.

Variety was not the club's only meat. It delivered many new musicals to the West End, most of them now forgotten, but successful in their day: *The Crooked Mile*, *House of Cards*, *Divorce Me Darling* and Woolley's own *Jack the Ripper*.

Oddy, the best remembered was initially a flop, commissioned from a young playwright called Sandy Wilson in the early Fifties. Sachs had asked for a Victorian theme; Wilson came back and said he couldn't manage that, but would the Twenties do? Sachs agreed, paid £25, and got *The Boys from Brazil*. Unfortunately for Sachs, £25 had not bought him the copyright, so it was the work of the others. Wilson came back and said he couldn't manage that, but would the Twenties do? Sachs agreed, paid £25, and got *The Boys from Brazil*.

While its new home was being built yards from the old, the Players' went to the Duchess Theatre in the Aldwych. Last winter the company found that its lease had run out, and that it had been squatting. It had to store its equipment, props and vast library

foyer and a licence which allows it to operate from 11am to 3pm.

There is to be the revival of an old West End tradition: the supper party. At 11.30pm, after the other shows have closed, there will be special performances by stars of other West End shows, the first being given by yet another of The Players' dear old pals, Sheila Steafel.

One senses that the likes of Miss

Stefel will enjoy themselves here as they have not for years in the bigger houses. But while they will be entertaining themselves, the target for their joyous performances will be, as the chairman will undoubtedly declare *ad naus*, "chiefly yourselves".

The Players' Theatre Club is at The Arches, Villiers Street, London WC2 (01-539 1134).

Steve Turner meets Mano Negra, a wild but atypical rock group

No money thanks, we're French

Joe Strummer, Herb Alpert, Gary Glitter, The Stray Cats, Lomax Donegan, Chaka Fadila, The Ventures, Run DMC. These were the names I scrawled on a piece of paper in the sweaty darkness of a Pigalle club to remind me of the swirl of influences that make up Mano Negra, France's leading indie group of the 1990s.

"Influence" is an inaccurate word. Mano Negra, who work at the confluence of rockabilly, world music, hiphop and punk, shamelessly steal. But they do it with irresistible panache.

The show was a relentless two-hour assault. It began with a 57-second instrumental and ended with a version of "Rock Island Line" that effortlessly glided from the skiffle original into rap, demonstrating the continuity behind all do-it-yourself youth, culture music.

Manu Chao, the 28-year-old leader of the group, entered the stage with a guitar, hooded jacket and headband, and left stripped to the waist, and glistening with sweat, having hauled himself into the audience, who bounced him around on their uplifted hands.

During the afternoon sound check, at which followers of the group cycled through the empty hall and played soccer in front of the mixing desk, he discussed the origins of the music they call "patchanka".

"I was tired of having to choose every time I joined a band," he explained. "So I said, 'I'm going to make a band where we can do anything we want and we won't have to choose.' To me all music is the same. You can find the same spirit in it as in salsa, in rap as in reggae. What could possibly be the problem in mixing them?"

No problem at all if you have the cheek of Mano Negra and treat it with the glee of a child mixing paints. *Pata's Fever*, their recent Virgin album, has songs in French, Arabic, English and Spanish, almost all of which are less than three minutes long.

"I'm a thief," said Chao. "If I like something, I take it. Then I go to market."

Half of the group's eight members were discovered busking on the Paris Métro and are of French or Moroccan extraction. The other half are related to Manu Chao's Spanish family and grew up in the industrial suburb of Pont de Sevres.

The first music Chao and his contemporaries were exposed to was flamenco and salsa. Later, as



Bubbling under? Mano Negra share suitably wacky transport

teenagers, they played the rock 'n' roll of Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran, in French rockabilly bands, dropping the odd Spanish tune into the set. Punks were their deadly enemies until they heard The Clash and realized that the spirit of this music was similar to that of rockabilly.

From punk, Mano Negra also absorbed the ethic of self-determination. Their contract with Virgin Records gives the group total control over the music as well as its promotion and packaging. In France they have already confused radio programmes by issuing a new single every month to avoid saturation airplay. This plan was hatched when an earlier single, "Mala Vida" made an unwelcome appearance in the pop charts.

"This is great for a rock band in this country," said Chao. "We hadn't seen anything like it in years. The first album, *Patchanka*, sold over 150,000. We don't need any more money. We now have quite enough to live on."

Mano Negra succeeds in its fusion of rockabilly and rap, rap and salsa, skiffle and punk, because it is done out of creative necessity rather than according to a grand plan.

As Chao puts it: "I think Mano Negra is a generous band. I wouldn't say that we are good musicians, but we are generous. The power we have got is our communication with the crowd. We give everything we have to give – every night."

Mano Negra play the Town & Country Club, Kentish Town, London NW5 (01-284 0303) tomorrow night.



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PARENTS

Bringing up a boy wonder

What do you do when your 13-year-old son starts asking questions about hyperspace and the randomness of the universe?

Alexandra King looks at the burdens and bonuses of raising a gifted child

Stuart McDonald started his parents by reading the newspaper to them when he was three. But it was the endless stream of questions which really alerted Terry and Wendy McDonald to their child's extraordinary intelligence. "I used to brace myself when I'd hear him coming," Mrs McDonald says. "It was never 'Hello, mum', it was always a torrent of questions so that, by the time he got to you, you didn't know which one to start with. Or it would be, 'Mum, I've just had this idea...'"

Stuart, aged 13, can laugh at this now — along with his father, a panel-beater, mother and 23-year-old brother, Jamie, who has been known to demand: "Doesn't he have an 'off' switch?"

Fortunately he has a sense of humour, which acts as an antidote to the intensity of his intellect. "We share the same offbeat sense of humour, which I exploit to the full because he can become so bogged down in such serious thoughts that we have to brighten him very quickly," his mother says.

Stuart has rarely slept more than four to five hours a night and is invariably the last member of the family to go to sleep. His electronic typewriter clacks away into the small hours, creating a new language or an imaginary world for one of the intricate, role-playing games he delights in devising.

"Sometimes I don't think about anything and it's that that keeps me awake," he says. He is becomingly modest about his many talents. Asked whether he made the impressive model ship on his bedroom shelf, he says self-deprecatingly: "Oh, but I didn't design it or anything." If he is commended on his phenomenally sharp memory — he can recall things that happened before he was a year old — he says: "But it's not photographic."

Stuart has the potential to become another highly publicized prodigy like Ruth Lawrence, but both he and his parents are determined that he should lead a "normal" life for a boy of his age as far as possible. He attends his local comprehensive school and his lessons are supplemented by tutorial sessions with a doctor of mathematics at Southampton University. The after-school sessions were arranged after consultation with the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children and are undoubtedly the high spot of his week.

"I would have thought going to university when you're only 13 would be pretty intimidating, but Stuart doesn't find it so," Mrs McDonald says. "I think it's helped him in all sorts of ways, not just by firing his interest in maths, but in boosting his self-confidence."

"As parents of a child like Stuart you're very much in the dark. You do your best — like bringing up any child, I suppose. But there have been times when I've felt inadequate, and I have had to say 'I don't know the answer to your question, but I'll help you find out'."

That has not deterred her from sitting at Stuart's side as he tinkers with the Archimedes computer he brings home from school each weekend and holiday. His own small home computer lies gather-

ing dust, like the bicycle bought for his seventh birthday which he has never used. She makes an effort to respond to his speculations on hyperspace and the randomness of the universe rather than switching off because she cannot really comprehend them.

"I wouldn't want to come across as a paragon of a parent," Mrs McDonald says. "There's always been something about Stuart that you could not ignore. It would have been very cruel to ignore his questions, and he's always had the knack of asking the right ones."

Stuart learned about "the birds and the bees", from prostitution to homosexuality, when he was seven, she says, during a school project on the Second World War. "He asked me why the soldiers had headed for a certain district, so I explained to him, which naturally led into an interest in sex. He was absolutely fascinated, and it was so easy to tell him. You weren't talking to a child, you were talking to an adult who didn't happen to know those facts."

These days, she confesses, "we are more likely to learn from Stuart. As we have our evening meal he'll start talking about astrophysics and the theory of time running backwards and I become so engrossed I just sit there, fascinated. And he's never condescending. He never says you're wrong, he just very politely explains, I think Stuart was always terribly worried that he would come across as big-headed, and he's probably gone a little too far the other way."

Stuart is an especially sensitive child, his mother believes. "You have to handle him extremely carefully. Not so much now, because he's emotionally maturing, but when he's had very bad patches — like when he changes schools — it is absolutely awful for him — it takes him so long to settle down."

One vital weekly ritual is Stuart's weekend walk with his father. "Every weekend he and his Dad go off for a two- or three-hour walk," Mrs McDonald says. "They take the dog and plod all over the countryside as they can. In Stuart's words, 'discuss life, the universe and everything'." Because he's with me such a lot he needs his Dad's influence too — and I do like to have a couple of times free from the questions."

Without attempting to "household" their exceptional son or live through him, the McDona

lads have managed to feed his insatiable curiosity.

"We've just listened to him, and answered his questions," Mrs McDonald says. "I don't think I've ever bought something deliberately as a stimulus — except a chess set which one teacher recommended."

His neat bedroom is filled with books on astronomy and favourite works of science fiction such as Douglas Adams's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. There is a television in the corner, plus a telephone and an electric typewriter, but little evidence of the burry-burry of the average boy's room. His mother insists the neatness is not of her making. "I wouldn't be allowed to touch anything in here," she says.

While he likes "good escapism" science fiction films like *Back to*



Family affair: "We are more likely to learn from him," Mrs McDonald says of Stuart

I can't quite understand why people like to do things that are slightly dangerous

evaluate them. He says he just does things "because they interest me", and takes a lively interest in almost everything, from French and German to drama and craft, design and technology.

The only areas in which Stuart is less than good are sport, which he shuns, and making friends with children his own age. "They just don't have many activities in common," Mrs McDonald says. "He's recently started having some fun on a Saturday for role-playing games, which they all like, but generally the other children are interested in playing computer games, whereas Stuart likes to design the programs."

Unlike other children who strive to live up to the expectations of their parents and teachers, Stuart has so far exceeded them that his drive to greater accomplishments can only spring from within and only he can

others going on around him, his eyes will often glaze over as if he is in a little world of his own, participating in a different — and much more demanding — conversation inside his own head.

Stuart had his IQ tested at school, and his parents were told it "went off the scale, whatever that means," his mother remembers. "But people have said to me IQ tests can mean a lot or nothing at all, so I don't set much store by them."

Stuart says he is "not really sure" yet what he would like to do when his physical age catches up more with his mental one. "I'd like a career in astrophysics. I think the ultimate dream is to predict the future."

In the meantime, he is content with "finishing things off and seeing that they work well. That is what excites me. Finishing a project, like a board-game or a role-playing game, I know it's probably impossible, but it's my dream that eventually we'll be able to work out everything that will ever happen in the universe so that we can even calculate human behaviour. But to calculate it we'd need a computer with a separate piece of memory for every atom in the universe and that would require a computer bigger than the universe."

"My car couldn't carry that," jokes his mother.

Rich gifts with a high price

Are early achievers doomed to be weakly swots, or can they lead a normal life?

Child prodigies provoke a curious mixture of envy, fascination, disbelief and dislike. They are often bullied by, or isolated from, their peers, the subject of much publicity, and disparaged by the parents of more ordinary children, who console themselves and their unexceptional offspring with dark mutterings about "early burnout" and unhappy, abnormal lives.

Two books to be published this month, however, dispel many of the unpleasant myths about early achievers. They should help the parents of exceptional children to see that abundance of talent is a gift — and what can be done to develop it. There are lessons for all parents.

The authors — Professor John Radford, an eminent psychologist who has written *Child Prodigies and Exceptional Early Achievers* (Harvester/Wheatsheaf, £9.95) and Mr Victor Serebriakov, founder and chairman of the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children, who has produced *Educating the Intelligent Child* (Mensa Publications, £7.95) — have independently reached the conclusion that prodigies are not doomed to be freaks in the sideshow of life.

There is the story of William Sidis, who read at the age of three, knew Russian, French and German at five and was admitted to Harvard University at 11 (where he gave a startlingly original lecture on the fourth dimension), yet died destitute and unemployed.

Professor Radford says this "appeared to exemplify proverbial wisdom, such as 'Early ripe, early rot', but it is in fact... quite typical". He is convinced Sidis's circumstances were "a combination of emotional starvation and parental exploitation, exacerbated by continual hostile publicity. Neither his original talents nor even his education, as such, produced the unhappy life."

Professor Radford maintains that most bright children lead lives that fulfil their promise. Both he and Mr Serebriakov support the findings of the American psychologist Lewis Terman in the early part of this century "which seemed conclusively to disprove traditional notions of the bright child as being below-average in other ways — the weakly, introverted swot".

The two authors also come down firmly on the side of an "elitist" educational system which recognizes that all children are not equal in ability and makes provision for those with special gifts to be educated separately — just like those with special remedial needs. "We should aim for equality of opportunity, not of achievement," Professor Radford says. He condemns the new National Curriculum for encouraging the mediocrity of mass equality.

Neither Professor Radford nor Mr Serebriakov sees any harm in children "getting their kicks from pure mathematics". Professor Radford commented in an article in *The Times* in 1988 about John Adams, the boy who passed his A level aged nine, but who "would much rather be out playing... or watching children's programmes... than debating the theory of relativity", that "it is not really clear why happiness cannot be found in discussing the theory of relativity."

Mr Serebriakov concedes that "some of the mathematical skills may isolate children from the world" and that a child may understand the fourth dimension while being socially inept and emotionally immature.

Both men, however, feel strongly that celebrating the differences between children is much healthier than forcing them all to conform to some theoretical "norm" and that some degree of eccentricity may be a characteristic of the exceptional in all fields.

There is no justification for a parent to push a child outside to play when he or she would rather be conversing with his computer or making up an imaginary language.

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ENVIRONMENT

STEPHEN MARKSON

Breeds that could die with a creed

Libby Henson is scarcely a political animal, but she is worried by the tide of economic revolution in Eastern Europe. Rare breeds of farm animals which have been preserved by primitive agricultural systems are in danger of being wiped out by modernization, she fears.

"Many countries still have distinct breeds fulfilling their traditional roles," she says. "As economic and political compromises are made, there is a real risk of losing them." Ms Henson is no sentimentalist: she bristles with qualifications, which make her, at the age of 32, one of our most respected authorities on rare breeds.

She is co-opted regularly to advise the United Nations and other bodies and her work takes her all over the world. Five years ago, she made the first census of rare breeds in North America and she is due to return to the United States this summer for an update, having established the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, based in North Carolina. "We identified more than 30 distinct rare breeds on the first census, many more than I expected," she says. "I believe we may still find others."

The lure of similar opportunities to comb Eastern Europe for rare breeds at once excites her but raises her apprehensions. She worries that in a stampede for change, precious rare breeds could vanish, and warns: "Once they're gone, they're gone forever."

Her fears are particularly for the future of rare breeds in Hungary — not so much because that country has been irresponsible in its approach, but because previous governments allocated huge sums to the cause. "Now national conservation programmes will have to justify themselves in a market economy and may well be sacrificed," she says.

She is evangelical about the need to preserve Hungary's traditional grazing grounds — the *puszta* — home to grey steppe cattle, Raca sheep and Mangalica pigs. She adds: "Unless that, again, these breeds produce exactly the right seeds for different birds, and so there is an entire chain of interdependency. Grazing is an essential part of the ecological balance."

One of Hungary's leading

breeds that, again, these breeds produce exactly the right seeds for different birds, and so there is an entire chain of interdependency. Grazing is an essential part of the ecological balance."

Ms Henson knows the

has just agreed to write a manual for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in an attempt to help save working breeds.

She disabuses anyone tempted to suppose rare breeds conservation is an esoteric pursuit with little practical application. Such animals, she says, are both part of a nation's cultural heritage and a "survival package for the future".

She cites the case of the Scots Dumpy hen, whose short legs mean its eggs do not have far to drop, with a consequent lower risk of fracturing the shell and introducing infection. In an age of growing concern over salmonella, such a hen could be of particular interest to the battery industry. "We have seen rare breeds making a comeback in UK agriculture," Ms Henson says. "As we strive to feed all the people of the world without destroying our planet, we are likely to find more roles for international rare breeds."

It is likely to be in the country whose suffering have been most manifest, Romania, where rare breeds may have their best chance of survival. "Their backward agricultural methods indicate a prevalence of old breeds," Ms Henson says.

Her concern extends to

Third World projects and she



Out of danger: Libby Henson with a Jacob lamb, a breed rescued from possible extinction

Moscow loses green contest

After only a year, the Soviet Union's environmental award has already become a victim of its own success

A time grows short for readers to cast their votes for this year's winner in *The Times/PM Environmental Awards*, news comes from Moscow of the demise of a similar competition set up in the Soviet Union last year in imitation of our own awards. Voting forms for the five short-listed entries in our competition were printed in our issue of April 7, and must be received by first post this Friday, April 20.

Last year, the magazine *Za Rubezhom* (Abroad) launched its own environmental award, in which the winning entries were chosen by the magazine's readers from a short-list chosen by a panel of judges. The competition aroused great interest in the Soviet Union, where organized political activity outside the Communist Party has largely grown out of the work of green pressure-groups moved by anger against the environmental scars inflicted on their country in the name of progress. Industrial pollution and shortsighted diversion of rivers have caused ravages on a scale which dwarfs the ecological problems of most western countries.

There were 650 entries to *Za Rubezhom's* competition last year, which was organized by its science correspondent, Vadim Goncharov. The winner was chosen by a vote in which 3,357 readers played a part, and announced in February this year. He is Dr Alexei Salyev, who created a botanical garden of more than 1,000 varieties of medicinal plants in the tuberculosis sanatorium of which he is head in the city of Rodniki.

"But the clerical work of recording and checking so many letters was more than our staff could take on regularly," says Nina Ratanin, a member of the magazine's staff. "With regret, we had to decide that we could not repeat the competition."

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MEDIA

Stick or twist in a franchise game

David Mellor is booked to attend a forum tonight on "Takeovers and Quality", organized by the Campaign for Quality Television. The campaigners are having a good run: the Minister of State at the Home Office, they say, "listens". He should tonight for the exchanges will come close to the heart of the master. The ownership provisions for the new ITV are still far from clear. So, would-be players are confronted by what looks like a rolling game of *vingt-et-un*. At every turn they may choose to stick, twist or buy one; if they choose wrong, they may go out of business.

ITV will get the game off to an early start, now that Thorn-EMI and BET have decided to put their 56 per cent up for sale as soon as authorities give a go-ahead. But there is a twist: just what is on offer? Is it what it seems to be on paper, a major slice of a franchise with only 2½ years to run, or is it also some sort of pass, or bye, through the fresh franchise round that allows the prizes for 1993?

Industry-watchers give mixed advice. On the one hand, George Russell, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, in his endless search for a workable formula, seems to have won the right to offer 1993 franchises — against the run of obligatory auction — where greater quality can be attested. This would seem to favour existing companies with programme records of some length and distinction. Yet in how many of the 16 available franchise areas can Mr Russell favour superior quality without running counter to what is still the underlying thrust of the Bill to offer franchises by auction to the highest of those bidders who have negotiated the basic quality hurdle?

The detailed wording of the Bill when it comes back in report stage may clarify the point, but at the moment the cautious guess is that it would look rum if greatly superior quality were allowed to tilt against the auction in more than a handful of cases. If so, then buying-in begins to look less attractive, better perhaps to stick, to hang back and bid later, and from a clean slate, bearing none of the industrial encumbrance that existing stations have inevitably accrued.

But this strategy, too, is not without its perils. After auction, openness to take-over is a second major new feature of the 1993 regime. Mr Russell is still pressing for a one-year moratorium on take-overs for the new appointees. One year after

the 1993 start-up, taken with an earlier year of pre-1993 warm-up and planning, would give a new franchisee time to get his house and his defences in order. But the point has yet to be formally conceded by the Government. For the moment the possibility exists that one or more of the winners could be coshed on the way back to the victory party.

This is the stage at which observers expect EC players to come to the table in force. The Bill puts no limits on EC ownership, but in the run-up to auction, the workings of the quality hurdle are likely to thin numbers. Plausibility will be at a premium. So it may be hard for Berlusconi to cut a dash in the Borders; now too easy for the Luxembourgeois to make a convincing lunge at London Weekend. But in any subsequent take-over activity this trip-wire effect disappears. The market's take-over rules will take precedence over the finer points of quality hurdling.

True, the successful take-over artist will be asked to live up to the promises given by the original winner. But promises in this business are necessarily frail; remember the early days of both London Weekend and TV-am? There were promises aplenty, but the performance belied them.

In practice, pressure towards sustaining and reinforcing long-term quality in programming can only be sensibly applied where the relationship itself is long-term and uninterrupted. That is how ITV franchises have been kept up to the mark hitherto, through the operation of a steady schoolmasterly system of reports, finger-wagging and occasional slapping of the wrist.

The new ITC regime will, no doubt, seek to build in a range of programming desiderata, but is bound to do so in mechanistic and mathematical form — so much of this, so much of that, and at such times, etc. In the new environment, however, it is hard to envisage any new company, especially one acquired by take-over, going beyond the strict letter of the contract. So what may start out as "minima" in the eyes of the ITC will end up as "maxima". The priority business of the new franchises will surely be to maximize profits and rapidly claw back monies expended in auction, take-over or both. Within the rules of the game as at present propounded, this is a perfectly proper objective, and, presumably, what the Government intends to warrant.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

Authority, in his endless search for a workable formula, seems to have won the right to offer 1993 franchises — against the run of obligatory auction — where greater quality can be attested. This would seem to favour existing companies with programme records of some length and distinction. Yet in how many of the 16 available franchise areas can Mr Russell favour superior quality without running counter to what is still the underlying thrust of the Bill to offer franchises by auction to the highest of those bidders who have negotiated the basic quality hurdle?

The detailed wording of the Bill when it comes back in report stage may clarify the point, but at the moment the cautious guess is that it would look rum if greatly superior quality were allowed to tilt against the auction in more than a handful of cases. If so, then buying-in begins to look less attractive, better perhaps to stick, to hang back and bid later, and from a clean slate, bearing none of the industrial encumbrance that existing stations have inevitably accrued.

But this strategy, too, is not without its perils. After auction, openness to take-over is a second major new feature of the 1993 regime. Mr Russell is still pressing for a one-year moratorium on take-overs for the new appointees. One year after

Sally Brompton talks to the man who masterminded the RSPCA's dog registration campaign

A successful lobby requires a combination of sincerity, skill and a precise understanding of the workings of Parliament. So says Gavin Grant, campaign director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who has spearheaded a highly professional campaign for the registration of dogs. The Government was defeated on the issue.

Mr Grant has spent the last 18 months — and £50,000 in donations — mustering the full forces of the media to persuade the public and press politicians into supporting the case for registration which will once again come before Parliament — possibly next week — in the form of a rebated amendment to the Environmental Protection Bill.

The success of Mr Grant's action can be judged by the fact that, in many parts of the country, MPs now receive more letters about dog registration than they do about the poll tax.

"I think the single most important thing about lobbying is to speak from the heart," says the former Liberal candidate. "Politicians see through champagne receptions and expense-paid trips and, anyway, they would be totally inappropriate with the kind of cause we're working for."

As well as the political insight gained as a would-be MP, Mr Grant also has the benefit of his experience with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, where he set up a marketing and communications department, and as campaign director of the Liberal Party.

"I understand the political process and how constrained MPs are by the parliamentary timetable and I think that is very important," he says. He also believes that "the people — or, in our case, the animals — you're advocating on behalf of are often your most crucial allies. The people directly involved speak with a frankness and sincerity which politicians will understand and recognize as the voice of their own constituents".

Aware of the value of impartiality, he commissioned the London School of Economics to carry out a survey into the economics of dog registration. Their independent report showed that the annual cost of stray dogs is more than £76 million compared with the £42 million necessary to establish a nationwide registration scheme with a dog warden service — a discovery



Dogged determination: campaign director Gavin Grant and his dog Pardis

which, he says, eliminated the Government's argument that the scheme is too expensive to implement.

"Your case must be able to stand up to hostile scrutiny," he explains. "You have to understand where your opposition is going to come from and what they are going to say. Finally, you must build your allies and mobilize the people by making them aware that there is something they can do either by writing to their MP or by economical activity, such as not buying a particular kind of product."

Mr Grant's allies include an all-party group of about 300 MPs led by Dame Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, and Ann Taylor, Labour environment spokesman, as well as about 40 organizations, including the Police Federation, the National Farmers' Union, the British Veterinary Association, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers, the

Association of District Councils and Child Care Concern. Mr Grant has been bombarding them with briefing papers and diplomatically worded suggestions about how to further their joint cause.

Among the most committed is the Association of District Councils, whose members bear the brunt of dog misdemeanours ranging from strays and fouling to attacks. "Everyone expects the local authority to do something about it," says Brian Etheridge, the association's assistant secretary. "But it is very, very difficult for us to take action against irresponsible dog owners if we can't identify them."

Mr Grant, aged 34, who is married to a vet, joined the RSPCA in the autumn of 1988, five months after the Government abolished dog licences and rejected a House of Lords amendment to introduce a dog registration scheme. Faced with the

task of mounting a campaign, he felt that the society "lacked the cutting edge in terms of bought media capabilities".

He employed the advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers (AMV) to handle the RSPCA account on the basis of the dog registration campaign. "It was clear that what we had to do was conjure the starker, strongest image we could possibly find to bring home to people the message," he says.

The message was that the RSPCA kills more than 1,000 stray dogs a day. The stark image chosen to depict it was the grisly black-and-white photograph of a mountain of dead dogs with the caption: While the Government looks the other way, another 350,000 dogs look like this.

The award-winning series of posters acted as "the storm troops of the campaign", according to AMV chairman and creative director, David Abbott, who wrote much of the copy.

With an advertising budget of £150,000 ("absolute peanuts", Mr Grant says), Mr Abbott was aware that the campaign "was not going to be a slow burn". He says: "We had to do something that would grab people's attention quite quickly and also dramatize the problem."

When the Kennel Club condemned the posters as "offensive", and banned them and Mr Grant from Crufts, the resulting publicity was a bonus to the campaigners, who rented the hoarding opposite the dog show to display the dead dog mountain montage.

About 400,000 mailshots encouraged supporters to lobby their MPs and regular market research reassured the lobbyists they were going about it the right way. "I was aware we were on dangerous ground because it is a horrific picture," Mr Grant admits. "But I decided not to make any apologies for it."

"Everyone felt we were right to use hard-hitting tactics. Forty-eight per cent felt more positive towards us because of the method we were using. Fifty per cent said the RSPCA had been too quiet in the past."

After the televising of a BBC 2 documentary, *A Shabby Dog Story*, which coincided with the final mail shot, 12,000 people telephoned within 24 hours to support the campaign.

According to Dame Janet, who has been fighting to get dog registration on the statute books for the past 15 years, the controversial campaign is justified by the results. "I know there is a minority which does not like the style but I think it is perfectly permissible to remind people of what they do not want to be reminded of," she says.

"We have tried sensible, moderate ways of bringing people together and we've not been listened to. Therefore, I think, it's legitimate to use shock tactics."

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MEDIA

My BBC battles, by the Duke

Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, tells Richard Evans that he has turned the ailing corporation into a fighting force

As any military commander will confirm, if the attitude of the troops is correct and they are carrying out the right manoeuvres properly, the enemy had better beware.

Marmaduke Hussey, who survived a bullet in the spine at Anzio in 1944 on his way to becoming chairman of the BBC, now believes after three and a half years of skirmishing and reorganization that his 28,000-strong corps is in the right mood to advance in the multi-channel broadcasting environment of the 1990s.

This does not mean that the radical changes he has overseen are complete, or that his team will survive intact. Far from it; there will be many more changes and casualties in the forthcoming months and years. But he is convinced the BBC has turned the corner since the dark and dismal days at the end of 1986 when he took charge of a corporation

under siege, and he produces evidence gleaned from his front-line forces to justify the confidence. Like any good officer, he casts from time to time with selected employees in the infamous canteens at Broadcasting House and Television Centre in an attempt to find out what his staff are thinking.

"I did it yesterday, as a matter of fact, and a very bright lot of people they were too — middle-range people, and this is by no means the first time it has happened. The message I get is 'We know the BBC has got to change. We see now that the governors and the management are changing the BBC — and thank heavens for it.' That view permeates right through the whole

Educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Oxford, he is married to Lady Susan Hussey, a lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Although some BBC staff regard the tall, imposing figure as an out-of-touch relic unsuited to the highly competitive television era, many acknowledge his qualities. He is the Willie Whitelaw of the BBC, whose sometimes less than foot-perfect public performances, such as at this year's *See For Yourself* exercise, mask a razor-sharp brain and shrewd political antennae.

Compared with the industrial strife he encountered at Associated Newspapers and *Times* Newspapers, culminating in the year-long shutdown in 1979, the BBC

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PREVIEW

TODAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music • MONDAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ROCK

David Sinclair

PHIL COLLINS: Start of a triumphal run of concerts celebrating the phenomenal success of *His Best* *Seriously* album. Sun-Tues (also April 25): Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW1 (01-599 8212), 7.30pm, £15-£22.50.

SUZANNE VEGA: Earnest Greenwich Village folkie turned mainstream adult-rock star touring a resonant but bleak new album *Days of Open Hand*. Today: Brighton Dome, 2nd New Road (0273 574257), 7.30pm, £9-£10. Tomorrow: Gullane, Cultural Square, Portobello, People's Arts Centre, King's Road (0208 685222), 7.30pm, £9-£10. Sun: Cornwell Coliseum, Croydon, Surrey, St Austell Coliseum, Cornwall, Bay, St Austell (07261 4004), 7.30pm, £9-£11. Mon: Newquay Centre, Kingsway (0633 259576), 7.30pm, £9-£10. Tues: Crawley Leisure Centre, Haslett Avenue (0293 37431), 7.30pm, £9.50-£10.

KYLIE MINOGUE: Bright, wholesome and multi-talented poppet whose appeal shows no sign of diminishing how ever much her detractors may wish otherwise.

Today, tomorrow: NEC, Birmingham (021 790 1433), 7.30pm, £11-£12.50. Sun: London Arena, Limehouse, E14 (01-538 1212), 7.30pm, £11-£12.50.

SINEAD O'CONNOR: Shaven-headed Irish wif with a voice as bracing as a bright winter's morning. Currently doing brisk business, especially in America, with *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*. Today: Brighton Centre, Kings Road (0273 202881), 7.30pm, £8.50. Fri: Newport Centre, Kingsway (0633 259676), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sat: Sun: Apollo, Arwick Green, Manchester (061 577 2755), 7.30pm, £7.50-£9.50. Tues (until April 26): Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081), 7.30pm, £8.50-£9.50.

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: Disco darling featuring material from the days of Bronski Beat and the Communards along with more recent solo offerings such as "Read My Lips" and "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)".

Today: Heaven, The Arches, off Craven Street, London WC2 (01-889 3852), 7.30pm, £8.

THE NOTTING HILLBLIES: Mark Knopfler's "antique roadside". Today: Riviera Centre, Chestnut Ave, Torquay (0803 209952), 7.30pm, £7-£9. Tomorrow: Newport Centre, Kingsway (0633 259576), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sat: Apollo, Arwick Green, Manchester (061 223 3775), 7.30pm, £8.50. Sun: Royal Court, 1 Rose Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321), 7.30pm, £9.50. Sun: Shambles Hall, Bankers Pool (0742 735285), 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50.

ADAMSKI: The "Acid Skinhead" is quite the most colourful figure to have emerged from the warehouse party scene, a movement that has been big on controversy but low on cult of personality.

Fri: Top Rank, West Street, Brighton (0273 732627), 8pm-2am, £10. Sat: Com Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 337851), 7.30pm, £12.

JERRY LEE LEWIS: Hellfire piano man and first generation rock'n'roller now in his dotage.

Today: Lakeside Country Club, Primley Green, near Cumberley (0232 636464), 8pm, £24 (no singles; mixed couples only). Please phone for confirmation.

ALBERT COLLINS: Ice-picking blues guitarist who exerted a formative influence on Robert Cray among others. Also on the bill are much-vaunted heavy blues-rockers, the Kinsey Report.

Sat: Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-284 0303), 7.30pm, £9.50.

LENNY KRAVITZ: Rock 'n' roll dressed with influences encompassing the Beatles, Stax and Prince. Already well on the way to stardom in America.

Today: Marquee, 105 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-437 6663), 7.30pm, 27.

JOOLS HOLLAND: Television presenter, member of Squeeze, boogie-woogie

Out of Rochdale



Voted "Best Newcomer of 1989" at the recent Brits Awards and with "All Around the World" now comfortably lodged in the American Top 3, the time has come for Lisa Stansfield (pictured here) to show what kind of dash she can cut in live concert performance. She is a graduate of the same post-House school as Yazz, with whom she shares both management and an early association with the Colcord production team. She was featured on their "People Hold On" single and they produced her first solo hit "This is the Right Time", which together with "All Around the World" is included on her debut album, *Affection*. UK sales of the album are now put at more than 750,000 and it too has found its way into the US Top 20. A down-to-earth, 23-year-old, girl-next-door type from Rochdale, Stansfield has the kind of sultry voice and singing accent that one would more readily expect to hear from an American soul diva such as Roberta Flack. Her live band is being directed by Ian Devaney and Andy Morris, the former Blue Zoot duo which produced and co-wrote much of *Affection* and it seems a safe bet, given her ability to cope with everything from sensual after-hours soul to good-time funk and a forceful personality to match, that Stansfield will give satisfaction on her debut tour. Today: Royal Court, 1 Rose Street, Liverpool (051 709 4321), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Tomorrow: Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (014 226 4679), 7.30pm, £7.50. Friday: Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (091 261 2606), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Saturday: Sheffield City Hall, Parkers Pool (0742 735295), 7.30pm, £6.50-£7.50. Sunday: Newport Centre, 0633 259676, 7.30pm, £7.50. Tuesday, Wednesday: Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 9562), 7.30pm, £7.50-£9.50. **David Stuckler**

planist nonpareil, and now singer on his latest single, a version of the Lee Dorsey hit "Holy Cow".

Sat: Dome, Doncaster Leisure Park, Bawtry Road (0322 370886), 7.30pm, £4-£5. Mon: Brightone Dome, 29 New Road (0273 574357), 7.30pm, £5-£6.50. Tues: Congress, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne (0332 412000), 8pm, £8.50-£10.

MANO NEGRA: Hyperactive, Parisian troupe, whose album *Pura's Fever* is a bewitching 18-track concoction of rap, rock, rai, rockabilly, reggae and more. New single "Rock 'n' Roll Sand" released last week. Certain to be a riotous assembly.

Tomorrow: Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-284 0303), 7.30pm, £8.

INSPIRAL CARPETS: Fashionable, Mancunian "scallywags" band riding the crest of their first wave of popular success with a debut album, *Life*, released this week.

Sun: McGonigles, South St Anne Street, Dublin (010 3531 774042), 7.30pm, £5-£7. Mon: Queens University, Belfast (0232 324803), 7.30pm, £5-£6. Tues: Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (014 226 4679), 7.30pm, £6.50-£8.50.

FAITH NO MORE: Heavy metal crazies who have widened their appeal to embrace a more "knowing" audience with the off-the-wall aspects of their singles "Epic" and now "From Out Of Nowhere".

Today: Top Hat, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin (01-284 808040), 7.30pm, £7.50-£10. Thurs: Ulster Hall, Bedford Street, Belfast (01-733 2242), 8pm, £12 (members £8).

Compiled by Gallop for Music Week (BBC/GPI)

JAZZ

Clive Davis

BOB DONOUGH: Satins and standards from the Arkansas singer-planet, occupying the stool at the supper club venue for the next week and a half.

Tonight: Pizza On The Park, 10 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-285 5550), Sat at 9.15pm and 11.15pm, £10.

RALPH SUTTOR: Once the immigration pianist at Eddie Condon's club, the American pianist is a master of the samba and boogie-woogie styles.

Tonight, tomorrow: Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-39 8722), 9.30pm, £6. Fri: The Stables, Wavendon, Milton Keynes (0906 563926), 8.15pm, £8.

CHOCO FREEMAN: In residence until Saturday week, the neo-bop saxophonist fronts a fusion band, Brainstorm, playing material from the album, *The Mystical Dreamer*.

Tonight: Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-438 0747), 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs 210 (members £22), Fri-Sat £12 (members £8).

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2155

ACROSS
1 Fired horse (4)
3 Cure (5)
8 Piglike (7)
10 French gold coin (5)
11 Light tube (4)
12 S Yemen capital (3)
13 Spasmodic switch (3)
15 Utopia author (3,6)
17 Dawn goddess (3)
19 Great/Little
20 Quirks (4)
23 Canadian flag tree (5)
24 Cross-country
runner (7)
25 Apex (5)
26 Entranced (4)

DOWN
1 Safe port (7)
2 Nun's cap (4)
4 French state (5)
5 Grown up (5)
6 Twist (4)
7 Human mind, soul (6)
9 "Fat" type (9)
14 Chin hair (8)
15 Cooks in steam (6)
16 Opportunity (7)
18 Marvelous (5)
20 Quirks (4)
21 Token (4)
22 Bayonet
scabbard (4)
23 10s
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Bush fails to close the gap on environment

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

SIGNIFICANT differences between the United States and European countries about how to tackle the greenhouse effect emerged again yesterday when President Bush opened a conference here on changes in the global climate.

The continuing emphasis laid by his Administration on additional study of the problem rather than on measures to tackle it was implicitly rejected in a statement by the European Community, and openly criticized by its representatives and American environmentalists.

"Gaps in knowledge must not be used as an excuse for worldwide inaction," Dr Klaus Toepfer, the West German Environment Minister, said in calling for the 17-nation, two-day conference to debate policy measures, rather than simply concerning itself, as planned, with research.

For his opening speech, in which he offered no new initiatives for combating the greenhouse effect, Mr Bush received only moderate applause. Later he was taken to task by delegates about the absence from the conference agenda of US policies relating to the crisis.

"We want to discuss policy," said Mr Pier Vellings, a senior member of the Dutch delegation, adding: "It's a question of political will to restructure your (US) economy to the benefit of preserving our culture another two or three centuries, and not another 50 years. We are worried the political will is not there, where it is there in European countries."

Yesterday's proceedings highlighted the gap between European and American attitudes which first emerged last November at a conference on climate change at Noordwijk in The Netherlands.

There, the Community, including Britain, committed itself to stabilizing emissions of "greenhouse gases" by the year 2000. The US declined to do so and, with the Soviet Union and Japan, agreed only to a statement saying that greenhouse gases should be stabilized "as soon as possible".

In his speech yesterday Mr Bush said: "What we need are facts, the stuff that science is made of." What was required, he added, was "a better understanding of the basic processes at work in our whole world, better earth-system models that enable us to calculate the complex interaction between it and our environment".

Green handwagon, page 9

Kinnock hails US move and proposes July visit

Continued from page 1
was normal practice for the President to meet Opposition leaders.

Mr Bush had met Mr Kinnock at Downing Street dinner last June and said he was looking forward to meeting him in Washington. Mr Kinnock's aides had then tried to fix a date for last December, but that had proved impossible because of the Malta summit and the holiday season.

Although July appears to be the preferred date, Mr Bush has to attend the world economic summit in Houston towards the middle of that month and there are rumours of a possible Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) summit which could also get in the way.

As Mr Kinnock yesterday welcomed President Bush's remarks on the special relationship between Britain and America would continue under a Labour government, it was disclosed that high-level dip-

lomatic contacts between the Labour leadership and the Administration have increased since Mr Bush took over 16 months ago.

American diplomats said yesterday that the hostility which characterized the relationship between Labour and the Reagan Administration was at an end.

United States Embassy officials in London, however, maintained that the diplomatic treatment currently being accorded to Labour was welcome by the Reagan Administration, mainly because of the big doubts at that time over Labour's defence posture.

"The Bush Administration did not come in with this negative ideological baggage about Labour," one said.

Labour politicians were pleased yesterday by Mr Bush's expression of confidence, in an interview with *The Times*, that good relations between the US and Britain would continue under a future Labour government.

Asked about President Reagan's cool reception for Mr Kinnock in

the past, Mr Bush said that if "the Opposition leaders would come here, we would see them: that's what it ought to be."

The Labour leader is planning to visit both Moscow and Washington before the next general election. He had been due to go to the Soviet capital last January but the visit was called off because of President Gorbachov's internal difficulties.

Mr Kinnock said of Mr Bush yesterday: "I think the political situation in Britain and the strong prospect of a Labour government will not have escaped the President's notice. Everyone else in the world seems to have noticed it."

"I think it has been clear for some time to us that there is a natural relationship between the United States and Britain as we have a natural relationship with the rest of Nato and the European Community," he said.

"I look forward to that continuing to the mutual benefit of the world."

There is a natural relationship with a good deal in common between two well-established and stable democracies. Those who say there is a dilemma about whether we should look across the Channel to Europe or across the Atlantic to the United States are not being realistic.

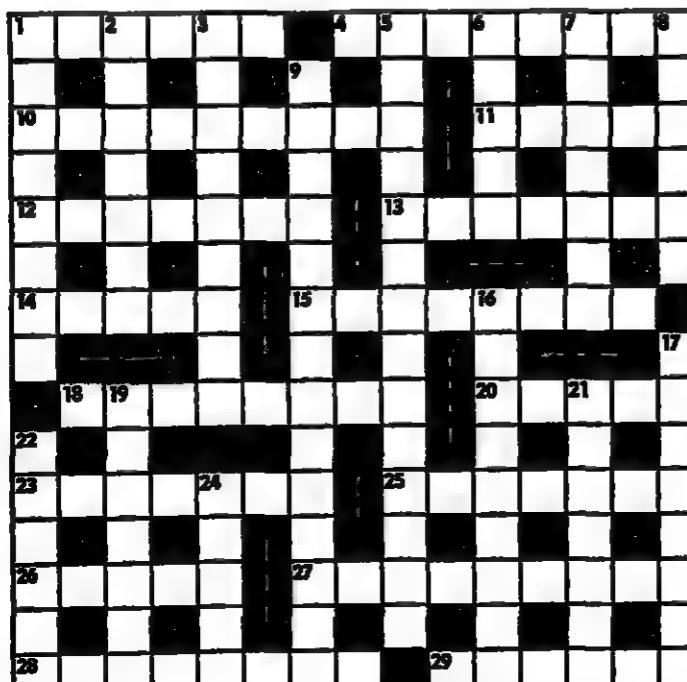
"Our place is in the whole world and the United States is a big partner in that world."

Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour minister, said there was now a convergence of views between the Labour Party and the Bush Administration. He said on the BBC radio: "Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan had a very odd personal relationship. He accepted almost anything she said. But she gets on badly with Bush, who represents the sort of upper-class wet she most dislikes in Britain."

Mr Healey said that the Opposition and the American Administration now saw eye-to-eye on many external and defence issues.

Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,271



ACROSS

- 1 Writer's quarters containing a small bed (6).
- 4 Investigate till it's time to leave (5-3).
- 10 Manoeuvre rope into a coil (9).
- 11 Heave unfortunate wife out (5).
- 12 Being extravagant with colour in gouache, initially (7).
- 13 Proclaim chief piece of baggage missing (7).
- 14 Find equality in love with a Knight (5).
- 15 Romantic inclination after 21 (8).
- 18 A lot to say, but not much to eat (8).
- 20 Listen to the band in distress (5).
- 23 Fruit juice made into a jelly containing mint perhaps (7).
- 25 Fruit the family grill as a starter (7).
- Solution to puzzle No 18,270

26 Weight-lifter, a sailor, suffering back (5).

27 Flower seed Lewis scattered (9).

28 Kind found in equivalent parts (4-4).

29 Fellow stiff and cold (6).

DOWN

- 1 Drink and quickly grow bigger (8).
- 2 Animal, headless ox, covered by boulder (7).
- 3 To produce something edible, country needs teachers (6-3).
- 5 Vandal races man against mule, for a game (4-5).
- 6 A hundred and four characters, roughly, in this place-name (5).
- 7 Several days' work for widespread, powerful organization (7).
- 8 Army attacked one island (6).
- 9 Right map fliers used wrongly — they landed in Massachusetts (7,7).
- 16 Cutler cut round bristle on man's face (4-5).
- 17 In pain? Diagnose disorder (8).
- 19 Finished drink—that's bit of coincidence (7).
- 21 Line put in, adding colour to clue (7).
- 22 Out of true, like a trainee worker (6).
- 24 Indispensable cove laid up, we hear (5).

Concise Crossword, page 22.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Elwes

TAKE

a. Greek for goodbye

b. The Indian one

c. Bengali old currency

DIFFAREATION

a. Upper-class Roman divorce

b. Procrastination

c. Violent disagreement

ROUNCY

a. Round and bouncy

b. A love

c. A rag

CIRCUMCISION

a. Feminic circumcision

b. Religious

c. Theological interpretation

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circ.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

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M25 London Orbital only 736

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 1990

SECTION 2

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6315 (-0.0110)
W German mark
2.7383 (-0.0098)
Exchange index
86.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT-30 Share
1736.3 (-4.7)
FT-SE 100
2214.5 (-7.6)
USM (Datstream)
140.17 (-0.65)
Market report, page 30

Michael
Peters
sell-offs

MICHAEL Peters is selling two businesses that it bought for £7.6 million two years ago. Spectrum Communications is being sold to management for £3.7 million but the group is unlikely to achieve the £16 million it paid for H.I.I. Peters' pre-tax losses for the half year were £2.94 million (£1.07 million profit). Loss per share was 16p (eps 5.1p). There is no interim dividend. Temps, page 26

McKechnie dip

McKechnie saw pre-tax profits fall from £1.73 million to £1.27 million in its half year. But the interim dividend is held at 5p. Temps, page 26

EIS PROGRESS

EIS Group has achieved its nineteenth year of profit and dividend growth with taxable profits of £11.9 million (59.6 million). A final dividend of 7.7p (6.9p) makes 10.45p (9.35p). Temps, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2783.76 (-0.89)
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2641.50 (-0.45)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 3020.44 (+24.76)
Amsterdam: CBS Tendens 118.11 (+4.44)
Sydney: ASX 1489.2 (+1.02)
Paris: CAC 20 52.04 (-0.78)
Brussels: BEL 60 5142.13 (+0.78)
London: Peas CAC 553.07 (+1.60)
Zurich: SVA Gen 592.5 (+0.07)
FT-100 Share 1197.04 (-1.10)
FT Gold Min 250.61 (+1.2)
FT Food interest 55.69 (-1.16)
FT Govt Secs 75.88 (-0.43)
Recent issues Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Harvey & Thompson 500p (+100)
News Corp 502p (+100)
Thames TV 523p (+120)
Design 710p (+100)
Heinkel 280p (+110)

FALLS:
Pilkington 405p (-100)
McKechnie 230p (-120)
Capital Radio 1341p (-100)
Hardinge 555p (-200)
Price Marston 250p (-100)
UK Land 385p (-100)
Barclays 584p (-100)
Harland Simon 650p (-100)
Micro Focus 807p (-100)
Rowntree 527p (-100)
LASMO 5781p (-50)
BOC 516p (-80)
Royal 481p (-70)
Granger 203p (-70)
Greycoat 4231p (-70)
Closing prices 1991 1991
BSEQ Volume 254.0m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate: 15%
3-month interbank: 15%
4-month interbank: 14%
UK Retail Rate: 14%
Federal Funds: 15%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.77-7.79%
30-year bonds: 9.7%
90-year bonds: 9.7%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
\$ 2.1124/09
\$ DM 57.72/
\$ SwFr 1.492/
£ FF 19.2074
£ Yen 159.85/
ECU 20.746351 SDR 21.6/
£ ECU 323952 £ 22.01/

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$373.50 pm-\$374.00
close \$373.75-\$374.25 (2229.25-
223.75)
New York:
Comex \$374.20-\$374.70*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$17.25 bbl
*Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia S. 2.23 2.28
Austria Sch. 20.29 15.92
Belgium Fr. 1.57 1.57
Denmark Kr. 10.35 10.25
Finland Mark. 0.82 0.82
France Fr. 0.80 0.80
Germany DM 2.27 2.29
Iceland Kr. 1.23 1.24
Ireland P. 1.075 1.085
Italy Lira. 2.110 2.110
Japan Yen. 1.205 1.205
Norway Kr. 11.17 10.47
Portugal Esc. 2.25 2.25
Slovenia Kr. 4.80 4.80
Spain Pta. 18.02 18.50
Sweden Kr. 10.40 10.80
Switzerland Fr. 2.245 2.245
United King. 1.71 1.71
Yugoslavia Dinar 1.61 1.61
Rates for small denominations, bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.

Retail Price Index: 1982 (February)

** * * *

Deutsche Bank set for East German link

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

DEUTSCHE Bank, Europe's largest bank, is poised to make a grand entry into East Germany's newly-liberalised financial industry after agreeing to form a joint venture with the East German Deutsche Kreditbank.

The joint venture is expected to include 100 of Kreditbank's 170 branches, a quarter of the East German retail banking network. It will aim to build a universal bank, offering retail and corporate ser-

vices, as yet unheard of in East Germany.

A letter of agreement to set up the new company was signed in Frankfurt yesterday by Herr Hilmar Kopper, the speaker of the board of Deutsche, and Herr Edgar Most, the head of Kreditbank.

The details have yet to be agreed, but Deutsche is expected to take a 49 per cent stake in the new company, supplying it with a substantial capital injection and training, while Kreditbank will provide the branch network.

new bank will be based in East Berlin, although its formation is dependent on agreement over the exchange rate between the two countries and planned changes in East German legislation to allow private joint ventures.

A statement from the banks said the company would "contribute towards the creation of an effective banking system in the GDR as a precondition for a successful restructuring of its economy." It added: "Both founding institutions do not expect the joint banking

institutions to acquire a dominant market position."

Previously, after Deutsche revealed it was talking to Kreditbank, analysts expected it to take a majority stake in the company. It is believed to have backed down from this after pressure from the West German federal cartel office, which is opposed to any Western company forming a monopoly.

Last month, the office severely criticised Allianz the West German insurance group, after it presented plans to take a majority

stake in Städtische Versicherung der DDR, the East German insurer. It has no jurisdiction, however, over the acquisition.

The cartel office said yesterday that it needed more details on the banks' joint venture before it decided whether to investigate. Kreditbank was formed last month as part of the break-up of the Staatsbank. Its plans to expand into retail services will bring it into competition with East Germany's dominant savings banks. The agreement leaves Dresdner and

Commerzbank, Deutsche's rivals, with the unenviable choice of either wooing the savings banks or growing organically after reunification.

When it announced its 1989 figures last month, Deutsche's board revealed it had a vision of operating 250 branches in East Germany with up to 6,000 employees. At the time, Herr Kopper stressed that the bank did not want to take on Kreditbank, which has estimated assets of DM300 billion (£109.5 billion), in one go.

B&C writes off £550m at Atlantic

By Angela Mackay

British & Commonwealth shares were suspended yesterday after the financial services group brought in administrators at Atlantic Computers, its computer leasing subsidiary, and announced the write-off of its entire £550 million investment in Atlantic in the 1989

In what is being billed as one of the biggest administrations since the Insolvency Act 1986 came into being, Price Waterhouse partners Mr Peter Padmore and Mr John Soden were appointed joint administrators by the court on Monday night. Twenty-five staff were assigned immediately to the account and a spokeswoman said this would rise to 50 by tomorrow as the auditors grapple with Atlantic's 119 subsidiaries which employ 5640 staff.

Sir Peter said B&C would consider legal action against former auditors, employees and merchant banks but "no one is in our sights yet."

B&C was a stock market favourite in 1986 and 1987, when Mr John Gunn took the helm as chief executive then chairman, but the stock market crash and overspending whittled away value. The shares have fallen from a peak of 564p to 53p at suspension.

Sir Peter said Atlantic's 1988 accounts contained material errors and that the company incurred a substantial loss in 1989. An investigation by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock and Boston Consulting Group also indicated

that previously reported profits and net assets were "materially overstated".

Analysts said they doubted

there was much value left in B&C for shareholders.

When B&C bought Atlantic for £416 million in July 1988, the market frowned on the deal. Its suspicion was supported by a £40 million provision in the 1988 accounts and the announcement of a complete review of Atlantic's lease portfolio in the 1989 interim results.

B&C said then the review was unlikely to have a material impact on the group's 1989 earnings.

Since the purchase, B&C has pumped in £117 million of new capital and loans.

Last month the chairman of Atlantic, Mr Nick Kennedy Scott, resigned from the boards of Atlantic and B&C and on March 28, the chief executive, Mr David McCormick, was suspended.

Neither Sir Peter nor Mr Gunn would say what Atlantic's debts were.

Atlantic's problems stem from an accounting policy which took all the profits from the life of the lease up front in the first year, though customers had the right to revoke the lease before it ended. This meant there was no cash flow to substantiate the initial profit and the residual value of the computers was very hard to quantify.

Exacerbating the problem, IBM started an aggressive in-house leasing business which undercut Atlantic, which mainly leased IBM and DEC computers. Atlantic could not write down the depreciation on the computers fast enough, analysts say, and the company's problems multiplied.

B&C's businesses include Exco, the money broker, BCNB Group, its banking arm, Oppenheimer, the US fund manager, and professional services involving property, insurance broking and consulting services.

Comment, page 27

City Diary, page 27

Sir Peter Thompson and John Gunn yesterday

Board stands by Gunn

MR JOHN Gunn, B&C's embattled chief executive, received the unequivocal support of his board yesterday, despite being the main architect of the strategy which cast down the one market's highest flyers (Angela Mackay writes).

Sir Peter Thompson, chairman, told the Press that Mr Gunn had made his resignation available but B&C was "not in the sacrificial lamb game". He said: "In my experience, it only produces dead mutton."

Gunn will stay on the management buyout of the money broker Astley & Pearce, where Gunn was managing director of foreign exchange. The Cayzer family, which has suffered an astound-

ing fall from favour. When Mr Gunn joined the board of B&C in October 1985, then aged 43, he had an immediate rejuvenative effect — the company's shares jumped 14p to 510p.

Founder of Exco, the money broking company which B&C bought in November 1986, Mr Gunn, a northerner educated at Nottingham University, had a reputation for being a dynamic hardworker with proven management ability.

Gunn completed the transformation of B&C into a financial services group by the middle of 1988. Speculation that he was not keen on buying Atlantic Computers but was convinced by the board speaks for his collegiate style, but this was one occasion when his instincts as a trader should have overridden the wishes of his fellow executives.

Jacobs sells only national driving school for £40m

BSM managers drive into hot seat

By Our Banking Correspondent

THE British School of Motoring, the institution which has educated generations in the mysteries of clutch control and the emergency stop, has allowed its management into the driving seat. It is being sold to a buyout financed by Morgan Grenfell and National Westminster Bank for £40 million.

The school, founded 80 years ago by Mr Stanley Coryton Roberts, an Edwardian automobile enthusiast, is being sold by Sir Anthony Jacobs, who acquired it in 1973. Sir Anthony had hoped the company would stay in the family, but decided to sell after his son settled in the

US. The Jacobs family is retaining its other businesses, the Spud-U-Like fast food chain and a business aircraft operator.

The management, led by Mr Paul Massey, the chief executive, beat off rival offers from car manufacturers and leasing companies anxious to win BSM's captive market for 4,500 cars a year. Mr Massey said the company will continue to use the Mini Metro and had worked on the development of the new model.

The buyout funding consists of £11.5 million in equity and £28.5 million in debt, while the Jacobs family will retain £5 million in convertible shares. The management stands to win up to 20 per

cent of the equity if it meets performance targets. It hopes to float the company in three years.

With 2,300 instructors and 130 branches, BSM is the only national driving school in Britain. Its proud boast is that one of its pupils passes the test every seven minutes, and last year, it tutored more than 200,000. Profits have risen steadily, and on the £40 million price, it is valued at 10 times earnings.

The buyout is also the first from Morgan Grenfell's Capital Partners fund, which is buying all the equity. The fund has raised its £145 million target in six months from 15 institutions worldwide and closed over Easter.

Country Casuals plans to grow

JAMES GRAY

Mr John Shannon, managing director of Country Casuals, with two of the very dumb helpers who are to aid the company's expansion plans. Mr Shannon announced that the fashion retailer — the subject of a £12.5 million management buy-in from Coats Viyella a year ago — is to open 10 new stores this year. There is scope for a further 50 shops taking the total to more than 200, he said. The business made a pre-tax loss of £1.15 million for the 13 months to January 1990 compared with profits of £450,000 for the 12 months to December 1988. Turnover rose from £21.9 million to £28.4 million and the operating profits were £485,000 up from £461,000. Turnover, the buy-in vehicle, made a pre-tax profit for the 11 months to January of £378,000. The group's debt is down from £10.3 million to £5 million.

Eurotunnel

to meet on

£2bn

cost

By Matthew Bond

THE full board of Eurotunnel is to meet this week to consider new estimates of costs for completing the Channel tunnel. Eurotunnel refused to comment on reports that it would be seeking as much as £2 billion.

As recently as January, Mr Alastair Morton, then chairman, insisted last month that the company would need far more. Costs appear to be edging past the £7.6 billion that TML, the tunnel's builder, estimated towards the £8 billion that specialists advising the project's banking backers suggested. Shares in Eurotunnel dropped 7p to 588p, up by 10p by the time that the high-speed rail link to London would now go ahead.

Since January, Eurotunnel has been operating with temporary funds of £400 million advanced by the syndicate of 208 banks under a waiver of Eurotunnel's original financing agreement. Under this, Eurotunnel is supposed to have funds at all times to meet the expected completion costs.

Details of the refinancing package — which would replace the temporary waiver — had been expected next week, but could now be delayed.

The sharp increase in the amount Eurotunnel is seeking

suggests it is now taking the £400 million of disputed claims from TML far more seriously and is making full provision for them.

13.75%
(14.8%)

Typical APR

John Charcol can now offer you a mortgage, or a remortgage, fixed at 13.75% (14.8% APR) until 1st March 1991.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bowater Industries aims to cancel shares

BOWATER Industries, the packaging and printing group, plans to redeem and cancel its 4.35 per cent preference shares, change its name, and seek authority to buy back its ordinary shares in the market. The group wants to drop "Industries" from its name, and is seeking shareholders' permission to be able to buy up to 5 per cent of its issued share capital should market conditions dictate.

Bowater also wants to redeem its 4.35 per cent preference share capital by offering holders 96p cash a preference share. This would cost £7.09 million. Bowater says the preference offer is 8.1 per cent above the middle market price of 35p on April 9, and that the shares are expensive to administer and impose inflexible requirements on the company.

Buy for Brent Triefus profit up by 60%

BRENT Chemicals International has bought Jansen Hasenbach, a private West German company, for £1.8 million cash. Jansen makes and markets water and solvent-based laminating adhesives and ultraviolet varnishes used in the printing and packaging industries. Its pre-tax profits, after adjusting for non-recurring directors' fees, were £20,000 for the year ending last June.

Thompson doubles

THOMPSON Clive Investments, which provides venture capital for unlisted companies, more than doubled pre-tax profits, from £224,000 to £434,000, in 1989. Earnings per share trebled from 9.5p to 27p, and there is a dividend of 2p (1p). The fully diluted net asset value rose by 8.2 per cent to 17.1p a share.

Gross revenue advanced by 41.6 per cent to £1.18 million. TCI said that £734,000 had been invested in nine companies since the year-end. It realized a gain of £130,000 from last month's sale of its investment in Emerald City Software.

Profits rise at Havelock

HAVELOCK Europe, the Scottish shop-fitting group, made profits before tax and exceptional items for the 36 weeks to last December of £312,000 (£52,000 for the 52 weeks to April 1989). Turnover was £32.8 million (£49.6 million). Earnings per share rose to 1.6p (1.4p) and the final dividend of 2.5p is equivalent to last year's total of 3.6p.

Yale and Valor sale

YALE and Valor, the security to heating appliances group, has sold its catering equipment division to management for £8.5 million. The buyout, led by Mr Robin Clark, the division's managing director, includes Moorwood Vulcan, Jacksons, Oliver Toms and Sadia Refrigeration, all of which were profitable and, combined, contributed about £22 million to group turnover.

Mr Tony Marson, Yale and Valor's finance director, said the proceeds from the disposal would initially be used to reduce interest costs and bring down gearing.

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McKechnie upholds tradition



Battening down the hatches: Jim Butler, chairman of McKechnie, flanked by Michael Ost, chief executive, (left) and Stuart Moberley, finance director

McKechnie will probably

make about £30 million pre-tax this year, putting the shares on a multiple of more than nine times, a little dear given the low quality of earnings compared with elsewhere in the sector. Recently-revived bid talk looks unlikely, given the perceived strength of the management.

EIS Group

EIS, the specialist engineering group, is a market paradox. Profits and dividends have risen for 19 years on the trot — yet since January the share price has done nothing but slide.

The near-recession for which McKechnie is battenning down the hatches — 10 per cent of the workforce gone and perhaps as much as 5 per cent still to go — has its advantages, however, in the form of "fire sale" acquisitions of struggling small companies.

But the group's cautious approach to the future is exemplified by its decision to halve current-year capital spending to about £10 million.

The company made its first serious overseas venture in 1984, but now has a family of 19 overseas subsidiaries, responsible for 48 per cent of

total earnings — so there is with the Soviet Union in particular and the Eastern bloc in general are increasingly coming into their own.

EIS made pre-tax profits of £11.9 million in 1989, a 24.7 per cent increase, which, despite the dilution of the April rights issue, still sees net earnings rise by 12 per cent to 27.6p a share. The final dividend of 7.7p (6.5p) on July 6, makes 10.45p (9.35p).

The profits advance was once again due to a mixture of organic and acquired growth and was helped by a further improvement in the fluid seals and power transmission couplings division and a strong performance by process equipment.

Both advances were insufficient to offset a fairly flat year for aircraft and precision engineering.

So far in 1990, profits are ahead of the same period a year ago and the strong marketing and product links

to the past 10 years has ground to a halt.

The shares have tumbled from more than 100p to just 18p and the business is looking as sick as some of its old retail clients. The group made a pre-tax loss of £2.94 million in the six months to December compared with profits of £1.07 million.

Turnover rose from £18 million to £23.1 million but the business made an operating loss of £1.55 million.

Exceptional reorganization costs swallowed another £639,000 and the interest charge was £749,000, up from £167,000.

The loss per share was 16p compared with earnings of 5.1p. There is no interim dividend. Borrowings are topping £9 million and the group is looking for new equity finance to help reduce these.

But Michael Peters believes it has taken the right steps to get the business back into shape.

Spectrum Communications, which stages promotional events and conferences, is being sold to its management for £3.7 million and the company is in negotiations about the sale of HTI, the US business which provides architectural and design services to North American department stores and which is making sizeable losses.

HTI and Spectrum were both acquired in 1988 for an initial £7.6 million, and while the Spectrum sale looks a reasonable one and will reduce debts by about £2.3 million, it is unlikely that the group will achieve the \$10 million it paid for HTI.

Warburton is conservatively estimating that the group will make a loss of between £3.5 million and £4 million for the year.

The shares may have reached rock bottom but, until the sale of HTI is finalized and the financial situation is clarified, they should be avoided.

Michael Peters

is the decade of design over?

To look at the share price of

Michael Peters the USM design and communications group, it would appear that the design bonanza which characterizes

Airbus Industrie 'in profit by 1993'

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

THE European aircraft-making consortium, Airbus Industrie, should be making a profit by 1993 — two years earlier than predicted, according to its managing director, Mr Jean Pierson.

Mr Pierson told the Aviation Club in London that he had predicted the consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, would be in profit by 1995.

"Well, I was wrong," he said.

"We will be profitable before then."

"When in 1993 the annual output of Airbus Industrie exceeds 200 aircraft, that is a turnover in excess of \$12 billion a year — over a billion dollars a month — we are going to become a profitable enterprise. Britain, through BAE will do very well indeed."

Airbus has been criticized by American trade officials and the rival manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas as for allegedly hiding the true profit and loss of the company and of accepting big subsidies from governments. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute between them are continuing with little sign of a conclusion acceptable to both sides.

Mr Pierson yesterday, however, put forward a strong defence of the consortium. The aircraft manufacturing industry, he said, is a very long-term business activity.

"It is capital intensive and massive up-front investment is required to develop, as we have done, a complete family of aircraft," he said.

"It will have taken us, as it has Boeing, just under 20 years to offer aircraft that cover the full range of airline needs. The four partners in Airbus Industrie have now made this massive investment. The returns, and they will be rich indeed, lie ahead of them."

He admitted that during the build up the consortium was not making a profit. They were, however, creating wealth, he said.

"Profits are now within reach. Profits to repay all the efforts that have gone in over those 20 years."

Airbus now has a backlog of 812 aircraft firmly ordered, which represents more than five years of work.

"The A312 which was launched only last November has become a major sales success already," Mr Pierson said. "This programme, I can assure you, is funded entirely by the Airbus Industrie partnership. We have approached the financial markets to raise money for this programme and the response has been overwhelming."

Another new aircraft in the "family" of jets being produced at Toulouse, the A330, will have Rolls-Royce engines, which will mean that the British content will rise to 55 per cent.

"At \$94 million an aircraft we foresee a great many of them being sold and that's a lot of good news for the British Exchequer," Mr Pierson said.

Borland bounces back to \$15m

By Philip Pangalo

BORLAND International, the computer software company which is based in California but quoted on the USM, reported pre-tax profits of \$15.5 million for the year to end-March, compared with a loss of \$2.77 million.

The company benefited from extensive restructuring — which led to reduced costs — and a good second half, which was boosted by strong performances from Quattro Pro, Borland's new spreadsheet package, and Paradox, which is the database management programme.

Earnings per share jumped to 99.9 cents, while fully-diluted earnings stood at 94 cents, compared with a loss of 9.4 cents.

The business had an aggregate deficiency of assets of £706,000.

Once again, there is no dividend. Revenues climbed by 25 per cent to \$113.3 million, with the US accounting for about 75 per cent. The

cost of revenues was cut by 9 per cent to \$24.7 million.

There was an interest credit of \$528,000, compared with a charge of \$845,000 last time.

Mr Philippe Kahn, the chairman, attributed the recovery to the strong demand for Quattro Pro, which began shipping in the third quarter.

He said that fourth-quarter revenues benefited from domestic sales to Lotus 1-2-3 users

who upgraded to the more powerful, graphics-oriented Quattro Pro — which has now been translated into foreign languages.

Mr Kahn also said that Paradox sales in the final quarter were the highest since the current version began shipping about a year ago.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of \$25 million for the current year. The shares eased by 8p to 98.5p on the news.

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Managers buy Del Monte division in \$375m deal

By Melinda Wittstock

DEL MONTE Corporation, the processed food and canned fruit group bought out from RJR Nabisco last January for \$1.48 billion, is selling its European division to its management in a \$375 million deal backed by Charterhouse, the investment bank.

The new company, Del Monte Foods International, will hold the exclusive licence to use the Del Monte brand name on any of its processed foods in Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The rights to the Del Monte name for fresh produce, however, are held by Polly Peck International, which acquired the fresh fruit operations for \$875 million last September from RJR Nabisco, which was taken private last year in the world's biggest leveraged buyout, at the height of the junk bond craze.

Finance for the latest deal, which took just three months to arrange despite turbulence in the debt market, is comprised of \$136 million worth of equity, \$80 million of mezzanine finance and \$212.6 million of senior debt, which includes acquisition debt as well as working capital. The equity element, representing

about one-third of the buyout funds, has been jointly underwritten by the £200 million Second Charterhouse Buyout Fund, the £120 million Charterhouse European Partners and the \$756 million US-based Charterhouse Equity Partners. The debt has been arranged by Charterhouse Bank and has been fully underwritten by a syndicate of international banks, including NatWest, Union Bank of Switzerland, the Nippon Bank and Bank of America.

Mr Leon Allen, president and chief executive of Del Monte Foods International, said he was "happy with the price," which represents a historic multiple of seven times operating profits.

The company, which made operating profits of \$48 million on turnover of \$351 million in the year to end-November, 1989 said interest payments resulting from the deal will be more than two times covered by operating income.

Mr Allen said the company plans to expand operations in France and Spain, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the USSR. He said it would also expand sales through "aggressive" new product development.



Happy with the price: Leon Allen yesterday

Yorkshire Radio in share slide

By Martin Walker

YORKSHIRE Radio Network, the USM-listed radio station, saw its share price collapse, prompting an abrupt slide in values elsewhere in the sector, when it announced a sharp fall in advertising revenue so far this year.

The shares dropped below 80p at one stage before ending at 82p, a fall of 50p, valuing the company at £7.7 million. YRN came to the market last August at 200p, which valued it at £18.7 million.

It announced in December that it had barely beaten the profits forecast made at the time of the float because of a "virtual collapse" in national advertising revenues.

Mr Michael Mallatt, the chairman, says the first quarter of 1990 saw a slump of 7 per cent in total revenue on the previous year. The worst fall was in March when national, as opposed to local, revenue fell by 45 per cent.

April had shown some improvement, but half-year figures to end-March would be "substantially below" those of a year previously. Analysts now believe interim profits of about £300,000 (previously £260,000) are likely, while Yorkshire unlikely to make £1 million in the full year.

The bad news hit other radio stations, with Capital Radio off 19p at 135p and Chiltern Radio down 30p at 190p.

Miss Anne Fenelon, analyst at CCF Lawrence Trust, said regional advertising spending on radio varied enormously from area to area, although this was not necessarily the reason for the apparent collapse at Yorkshire. "It isn't that the money isn't there — it's due probably to local factors, but also to the quality of the sales force," she said.

NP station wins Doe approval

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

NATIONAL Power, largest of the two power producers being created out of the old Central Electricity Generating Board, is likely to establish another five environment-friendly and economical gas-fired power stations after approval for its first such station at Killingholme, south Humberside.

The £250 million Killingholme combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) station, due to be completed in the autumn of 1993, will initially have a capacity of 600 megawatts, but the planning consent received yesterday from the Department of Energy would allow the site to go to 1,000 megawatts.

It will take the entire output of the Caister gasfield, which is being developed by Total, CanadianOxy and Ultramar off the Yorkshire coast. Development of a platform and a

How holds payout as profit dips

By Our City Staff

HOW Group, the construction services group, reports a slide in taxable profit from £6.39 million to £5.18 million for 1989. But the dividend is maintained at 2.25p.

Despite some slowdown in the construction industry, How Engineering Services has gone into 1990 with a good workload. Start-up costs of How Design and Management, the company's project management company, were heavy although within budget.

HDM has a number of contracts to undertake and is expected to be profitable in 1990. Building services plant hire increased its volume and profit.

Despite the slowdown in housebuilding, the company expects growth in 1990. Progress at How Hire and Service was slowed by high interest rates. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Rugby chief to lead ECC

By Our City Staff

MR ANDREW Teare, aged 47, managing director of Rugby Group, the building materials business, is to be the surprise new chief executive of ECC Group.

ECC, formerly known as English China Clays, has been looking for a new chief executive for about eight months. The present incumbent, Mr Stan Dennis, who will be 60 next month, is retiring because of ill health.

Mr Teare will join on July 1 — some time after ECC presents its interim figures, due in the middle of next month.

Lord Chilver, the chairman, warned shareholders at the annual meeting in February of



Andrew Teare: surprise

Solid rock at market

IF Town Hamlets' planners

give its redevelopment the go-ahead, the 12-acre site of the Spinfields fruit and vegetable market is expected to provide rich pickings for City archaeologists. Once the traders leave the market for their new site at Temple Mills, east of the capital, archaeologists will move in for what is expected to be an extensive dig. However, despite the long and colourful history associated with Spinfields and the East End, the omens are not encouraging. The early demolition of a group of buildings at the Bishopton site allowed a limited amount of excavation to get under way last year. But the hoped-for traces of early Viking green-grocers or Roman fruit sellers were somewhat thin on the ground. After four weeks work, the most ancient thing they found on the site apparently was an Eddy Cochrane record, circa 1962.

The 13,500 flight attendants of American Airlines, the largest US carrier, have posed a weighty problem for the airline. In a pending law suit, they have accused it of age and sex discrimination over its "grooming policy", which sets weight limits for men and women. Their union claims that America's weight tables are for small- to medium-framed women, but for large-framed men. And the company does not increase its weight limits with age. America says being overweight can impede an attendant in case of emergency.

THE American magazine, *Wyoming Traveler*, has offered some advice which could be equally well applied this side of the Atlantic. To those readers facing an increasing mountain of unpaid bills, it says: "Send out a change of address card — and then don't move."

Carol Leonard



Their computers are on the blink

IEP to meet big Vickers investors

By Matthew Bond

SIR RON BRIERLEY'S IEP Securities is to meet the 10 leading institutional shareholders in the engineering group Vickers this week in an attempt to win support for its demerger proposals.

IEP wrote to Vickers' shareholders yesterday with details of the restructuring proposals which, if accepted, would see Rolls-Royce Motor Cars demerged as an independent company. IEP's plan, announced last month, is due to be voted on at Vickers' annual meeting a week tomorrow.

IEP is Vickers' largest shareholder with 18.6 per cent. Mr Smart Mitchell, IEP managing director, said the 10 institutions it is to meet account for about 35 per cent of Vickers' ordinary shares. They include Standard Life, long-time holder of a 5.7 per cent stake.

Mr Mitchell believes the argument for demerging Rolls-Royce is compelling. "Unfortunately the market appears to rate Vickers on a lowest common denominator basis, rating it on its poorest businesses not its best. The present value of Rolls-Royce is hidden within the complex conglomerate structure of Vickers."

"The tactic now is to convince people of our case."

Top of the list of points IEP wishes to communicate is the fact that a demerger is not the same as a sale.

Its proposals add up to a package worth potentially 255p a share to existing shareholders, with shares in a demerged Rolls-Royce worth 110p if, as IEP forecasts, the shares were rated at 12 times earnings, rather than the eight times earnings that Vickers' shares stood at before Sir Ron's initiative.

The IEP document questions the decision to acquire the engines group Cosworth, bought on a multiple of 20 times earnings. The £165 million deal is also to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Vickers shares closed yesterday unchanged at 223p, as IEP warned that it could see no reason for them to stay above 200p if its proposals are voted down.

Vickers' chairman, Sir David Plastow, had nothing to add to the criticisms he levelled at the IEP proposals in a letter to shareholders last week.

A Vickers spokesman said: "We feel that this document is a cover for Brierley's short-term aim to break up Vickers."

COMMENT

The Bank helps B&C to avoid hara-kiri

British & Commonwealth is in financial trouble far deeper than was realized. Write-offs look set to top £600 million in the 1989 accounts. This compares with a market capitalization which has slumped from almost £2 billion at its peak to £200 million and pre-tax profits of £122 million in the previous year.

What went wrong? All the blame cannot be laid at Atlantic Computer's door because asset sales started last year and shares have never been anywhere near the altitude of pre-Black Monday. Shareholders must await the full trading results before the picture becomes clearer.

Chairman Sir Peter Thompson and chief executive John Gunn put on brave faces yesterday and made reassuring noises about the soundness of the rest of their businesses. This is very good news because if there were any more bad apples in the barrel, the banks would not be so patient about allowing B&C to conduct its own £750 million fire sale.

Ironically, the further cost slippage comes at a time when overall prospects for the tunnel have been improving, through excellent drilling rates achieved by the contractors and the growing prospect that the British government will make a £1 billion lump sum contribution to a new rail link with London. But long-suffering shareholders are surely due an explanation — and soon.

Rover's new chapter

Over's completion of its share swap with Honda marks the start of a new chapter in the chequered history of Britain's biggest independent car maker. It is also a potentially significant development for Rover's parent, British Aerospace, which was widely criticized over the purchase.

BAE is candid about the role Honda has played in Rover's survival. It is doubtful that the British company could have survived without the marriage of convenience fixed by Sir Michael Edwards when he realized that Rover had a gaping hole in its new product development planning and lacked both the money and the time to plug it.

Alone, Rover lacks the financial muscle and the shop-floor efficiency to compete in an industry increasingly dominated by giant corporations. In association with one of the strongest of those giants, the prospects are far more hopeful. The deal gives Honda an opportunity to meet its objectives within Europe, and Rover access to management techniques and up-to-date technologies essential if it is to carve an up-market niche in a cut-throat business.



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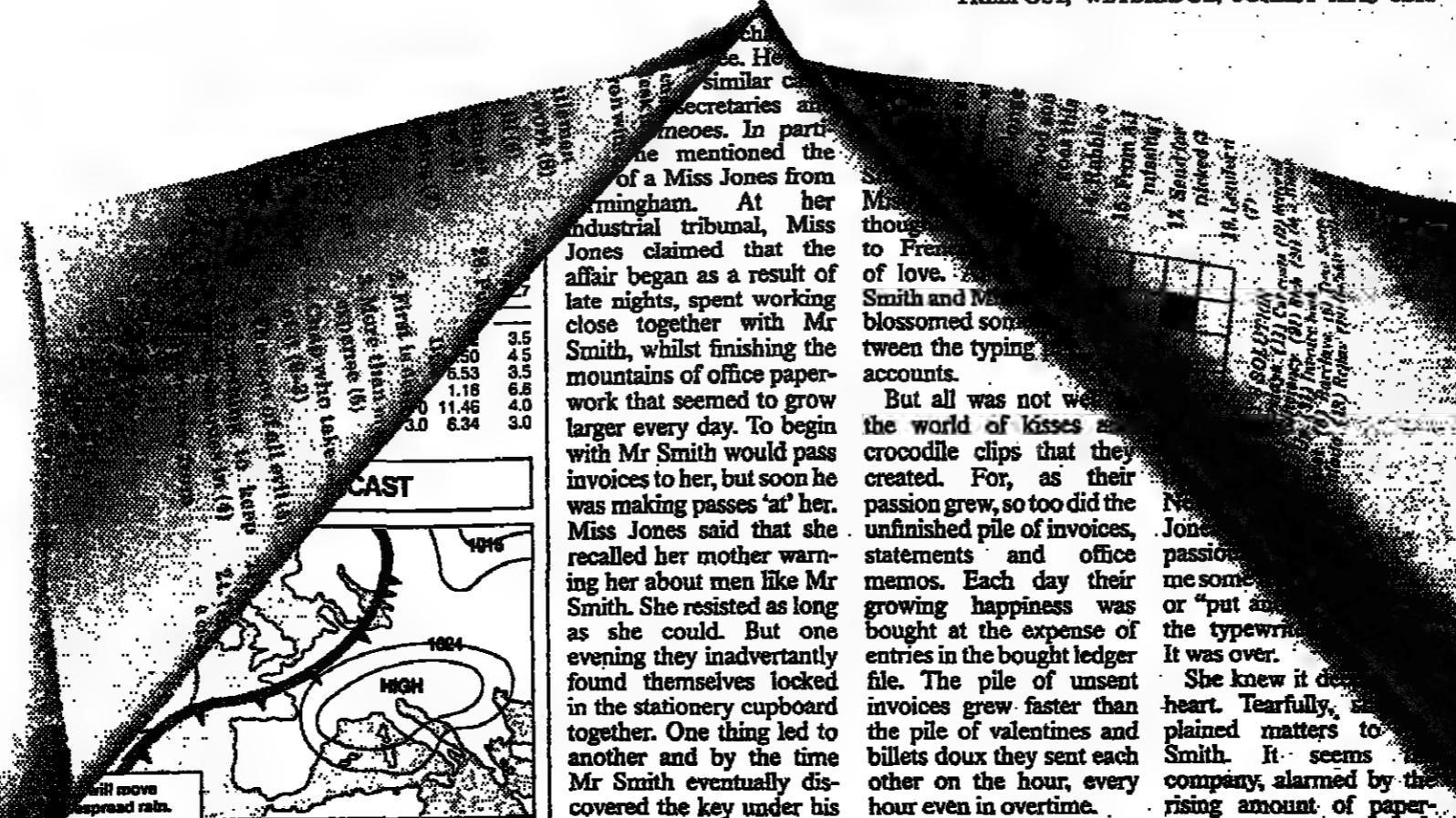
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She was a secretary. He was a similar age, a secretary and a movie. In particular, he mentioned the case of a Miss Jones from Birmingham. At her industrial tribunal, Miss Jones claimed that the affair began as a result of late nights, spent working close together with Mr Smith, whilst finishing the mountains of office paperwork that seemed to grow larger every day. To begin with Mr Smith would pass invoices to her, but soon he was making passes 'at' her. Miss Jones said that she recalled her mother warning her about men like Mr Smith. She resisted as long as she could. But one evening they inadvertently found themselves locked in the stationery cupboard together. One thing led to another and by the time Mr Smith eventually discovered the key under his

bedroom door, he was a crocodile clips that they created. For, as their passion grew, so too did the unfinished pile of invoices, statements and office memos. Each day their growing happiness was bought at the expense of entries in the bought ledger file. The pile of unsent invoices grew faster than the pile of valentines and billets doux they sent each other on the hour, every hour even in overtime.

She knew it deep in her heart. Tearfully, she explained matters to Mr Smith. It seems the company, alarmed by the rising amount of paper

WALL STREET

New York THE Dow Jones industrial average was 15 points down at 2,748.06 in early trading after falling to 2,741.00. News of a much larger-than-expected rise in March industrial production triggered futures-related selling. However, blue chips made good some losses. Falling shares outnumbered

rises by nine to two but trading was fairly slow. Bond prices also fell on the industrial production announcement as well as the news of a stronger-than-expected rise in consumer prices.

This inflationary news outweighed a steep fall in housing starts that had raised hopes of easier credit. (Reuter)

TOKYO

Prices end mixed on currency worries

Tokyo

THE Nikkei index eased by just 1.58 points to 28,461.60 after tumbling by 750.74 on Monday. Shares closed mixed after index-linked and general selling amid mounting currency worries forced prices off their highs. The Easter holiday overseas and the ailing yen kept trading thin and added to volatility.

Mr Tetsuya Fukami, the head of equities at Shearson Lehman Hutton Asia, said: "The general feeling seems to be that the market has already bottomed out, but there is no energy to sustain any gains."

Turnover was only 400 million shares, up from Monday's thin 230 million. The main buyers were investment trusts which invested in large-capital steel, shipbuilding and other shares.

The electrical sector was pulled down by dealers closing positions left over from last week and on reports that big high-technology companies

are facing a market slump.

Falling shares outnumbered

rises by almost six to five with 484 lower, 418 higher and 176 unchanged.

Elsewhere, investors were making a slow return from the Easter holiday with turnover falling to its lowest so far this year. Just 254 million shares were traded. London shrugged off a weaker pound, drawing strength from the overnight rise on Wall Street. But the gains were not held and the FT-SE 100 index closed 7.6 down at 2,214.5. The FT index of 30 shares also lost 4.7 at 1,736.3. But the pound's weakness left government securities nursing losses of almost £1 at the longer end.

Among the leaders, Glaxo

eased 4p to 810p despite a buy

recommendation from Kleinwort Benson. ECC

Group rose 12p to 370p,

cheered by the appointment of

Rugby Group's Mr Andrew

Teare as the chief executive.

Rugby lost 4p at 155p on the

news.

Turnover rose to HK\$1.53

billion (£120.7 million) from

HK\$1.3 billion on Thursday.

• Frankfort — The DAX in-

dex fell 3.82 to 1,914.35.

Prices closed mixed in a

cautious, reticent market.

• Singapore — The Straits

Times industrial index shed

4.34 to 1,526.63. The market

closed slightly weaker in thin

and lethargic trading.

• Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index finished 0.8

points up at 1,499.2. Shares

closed virtually unchanged in

extremely thin trading.

(Reuter)

STOCK MARKET

Kingfisher expected to renew bid for Dixons



period with revenue for the first quarter down 17 per cent.

The news also pulled the rug from under the rest of the independent radio operators with Capital Radio falling 19p to 135p, Chiltern Radio 30p to 190p, Radio City 45p to 358p and GWR 42p at 378p.

Blacks Leisure remained in

free-fall following a recent

profit warning, ending 11p

lower at 40p, after touching

40p. The shares have fallen

24p in the past two trading

days. The company chose to

issue its trading statement

after the close of official

business on Thursday, warn-

ing of accounting inaccuracies

and results materially below

those of last year at its Miss

Sam subsidiary. Erskine

House continued to reflect a

recent profits warning, sliding

another 3p to 119p. Clark

Teknik, the USM high-tech

audio equipment group,

climbed 14p to 75p after

announcing it was in bid talks.

Boots, the high street chem-

ist, slipped 4p to 251p, un-

settled by reports that tests

being in the US have indicated

that the group's best-selling

pain-killer Nurofen may, in

some cases, result in kidney

failure. But analysts in the

City were sceptical.

Mr Martin Hall, an analyst

at UBS Phillips & Drew, the

broker was not impressed. He

said: "The drug has been on

the market for over 20 years

and no major problems have

arisen. Its safety record was

such that a few years ago the

authorities decided to move it

from prescription to over-the-

counter sales."

Nurofen is a market leader

in both Britain and the US and

is estimated to account for

between 30 and 40 per cent of

profits in Boots' industrial

division.

The rest of the retail sector

had to contend with the latest

distributive trades survey

from the CBI, indicating a

further slowdown in sales. It

gave a warning that after the

Christmas and New Year

"blip," sales have slowed

dramatically, leaving retailers

and wholesalers with unsold

stocks. Dealers marked the

other leading retailers lower,

but an absence of sellers

enabled them to recover.

Failures blamed on economy's 'chill wind'

By Our City Staff

FRESH evidence has emerged of the accelerating pace of business failures.

The number of company liquidations agreed with creditors jumped 27 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared to the first three months of 1989, said the accountancy firm KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock.

It said more than 1,800 firms had gone into so-called creditors' voluntary liquidation (CVL), where shareholders let creditors choose a liquidator for an insolvent business.

Mr Tim Hayward, senior UK corporate recovery partner at KPMG, said: "These figures confirm the conclusions drawn from receivership statistics we released last week, which showed a year-on-year rise of 109 per cent for the first quarter."

"CVL statistics are less dramatic as there is always a core of businesses going into liquidation, whatever the economic climate."

"However, the rise over the last year remains high and indicates that high interest rates are blowing a chill wind on the economy."

"Rent rises, the uniform business rate and the advent of the European single market will make the economic climate still harsher and could well make the increase yet steeper," he said.

Japanese in Euston plan

Tokyo JAPAN'S Kajima company plans to redevelop an area surrounding London's Euston Station in a joint project with the British developer Stanhope Properties, a Kajima official said.

For the project, Kajima and Stanhope bought four office buildings in front of the Station from British Rail in June for about £110 million, the official said.

The two companies have set up a joint venture, SKE, to undertake the project and they are considering asking British Rail to join.

At the moment, plan is to build an office and commercial complex including a hotel and shops. (AP)

Brilliant new 200SX, Ferrari looks, Porsche pace

Autocar & Motor



To capture the sheer brilliance of the new 200SX, the experts felt compelled to compare it with other classic sports cars. But they didn't go far enough.

The 200SX is a unique combination of power and beauty.

An eye-catching sleek, aerodynamic body hints at the stunning performance that only a turbocharged, multi-valve engine can deliver. Flashing from 0-60 in a breathtaking 6.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 140mph*, it leaves the opposition standing.

Pin-sharp, power assisted steering, a revolutionary multi-link rear suspension system and rear-wheel drive, give the

200SX handling that is as crisp and precise as it is exciting. Even in slippery conditions, electronic anti-lock brakes provide the confidence of ultimate control.

And with the sort of luxury interior one would expect from the sports coupe of the 90s, it's no wonder the experts are unanimous.

The 200SX - as individual as you are.

NISSAN

NISSAN UK LTD, WORTHING, SUSSEX.

crisp and precise, as it is exciting. Even in slippery conditions, electronic anti-lock brakes provide the confidence of ultimate control.

And with the sort of luxury interior one would expect from the sports coupe of the 90s, it's no wonder the experts are unanimous.

The 200SX - as individual as you are.

مكتباً من الأصل

AS YOU CAN SEE, A NATIONAL TRAINING AWARD ISN'T ALL YOU WIN.

As more and more financial organisations are discovering, it pays to invest in training.

Just look at the figures. Not only have business objectives been met,

but staff morale

STAFF TURNOVER DOWN
ONE THIRD AT
NATIONWIDE ANGLIA. and enthusiasm are given a boost. And that is important in a business where you have to deal with people as well as money.

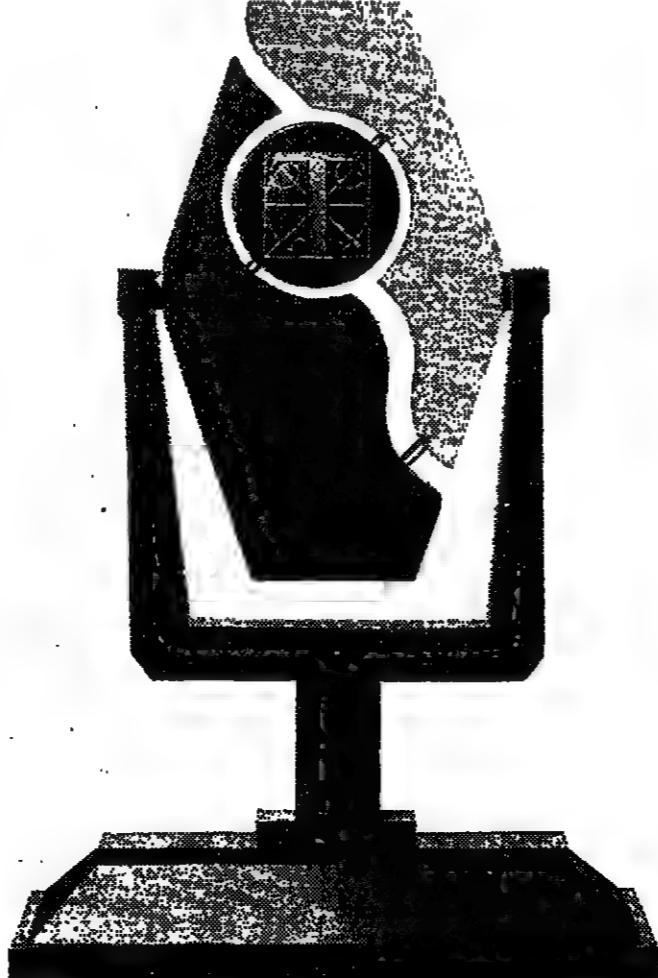
The National Training Awards recognize this commitment to training.

Every organisation that entered clearly

SALES INCREASED 30% AT N.E.U. MUTUAL. showed how better staff training had led to better results.

What's more, a National Training Award continues to pay dividends. Many companies start to attract a higher calibre of recruit.

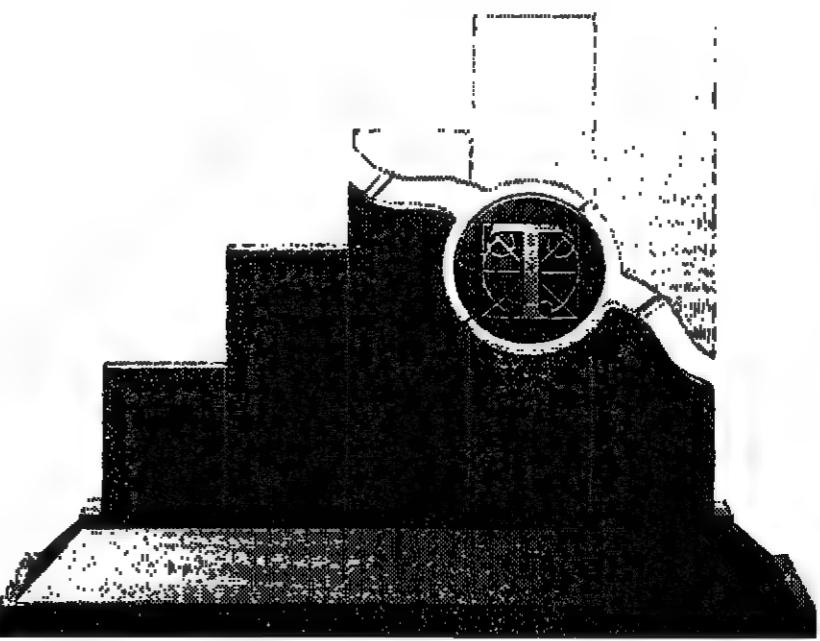
(Wouldn't you rather join a company with a first class staff training programme?).



FREE PUBLICITY.

Then there's the free publicity. Winners have been featured in both national and local newspapers as well as Channel 4's "Business Daily."

In short, it's an Award you will want to win, when you see what you win.



NET PROFIT UP 124% AT YORKSHIRE BANK.

For a 1990 competition entry pack, phone 0800 590 926, quoting reference FO2 or complete the coupon below.



THE NATIONAL TRAINING AWARD

A CREDIT TO YOUR ORGANISATION.

For more information and an entry pack write to National Training Awards, FREEPOST (GR629), Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BR. Or phone 0800 590 926.

NAME: _____	TRAINING
JOB TITLE: _____	AGENCY
ORGANISATION: _____	
TYPE OF COMPANY: _____	
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
POSTCODE: _____	
TELEPHONE: _____	FO2



Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Isin
1	Rechem	Industrials L-R	
2	General Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
3	CRH	Building, Roads	
4	Portas	Industrials L-R	
5	Elbit	Industrials E-K	
6	BBA	Industrials A-D	
7	Trelia	Industrials S-Z	
8	CH Ind	Industrials A-D	
9	Medicor	Industrials L-R	
10	Hiscox (as)	Foods	
11	Hawker Siddeley (as)	Industrials E-K	
12	Whitbread (as)	Chemicals, Plas	
13	Body Shop	Drapers, Stores	
14	Cavendish	Drapers, Stores	
15	Penhill (as)	Transport	
16	Capita (as)	Projects	
17	Frost RS	Paper, Print, Advt	
18	Power Corp	Property	
19	Lambert Howard	Shoes, Leather	
20	Olive Grove	Paper, Print, Advt	
21	Yale & Valor	Industrials S-Z	
22	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
23	Cadbury-Schweppes (as)	Foods	
24	Dalgety (as)	Foods	
25	Elx Data Process	Electricals	
26	Berkshire Gp	Building, Roads	
27	Jardine Matheson	Industrials E-K	
28	Rowthorn (as)	Building, Roads	
29	Ranger	Oil/Gas	
30	Cain	Building, Roads	
31	Harrison Croft (as)	Industrials E-K	
32	Fuchs Lube	Foods	
33	Star TV	Leisure	
34	Swiss Pacific (as)	Industrials S-Z	
35	Baker, Harris	Property	
36	Fisons	Chemicals, Plas	
37	Tiax (as)	Drapers, Stores	
38	PE International	Electricals	
39	Cliftons Foods (as)	Foods	
40	Star Furniture	Industrials S-Z	
41	Cable & Wireless (as)	Electricals	
42	Sequoia Ser	Industrials S-Z	
43	Hutchison Whampoa	Industrials E-K	
44	Shell (as)	Oil/Gas	
45	Times, Newspapers Ltd	Daily, Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your cash totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 prize in the Portfolio Platinum competition. They were Mrs Finola Sullivan, from Gravesend in Kent, Ms Pamela Torpichen, from London, and Mrs Dorothy Torlesse, from Romsey in Hampshire. They will each receive £666.66.

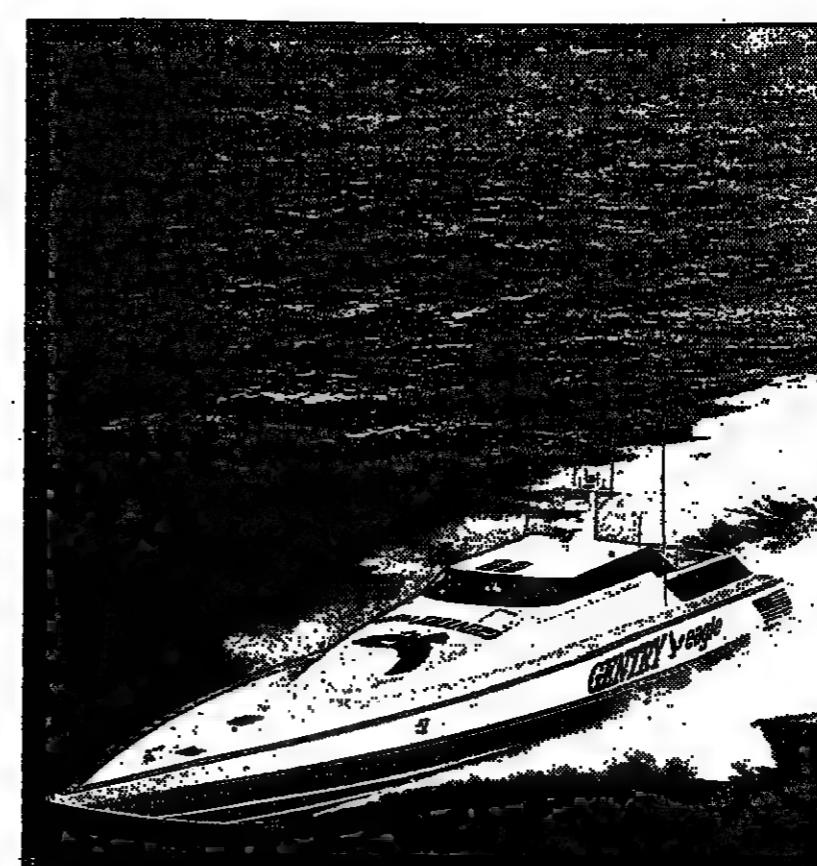
BRITISH FUNDS

1990 No. 100 Stock Price/Dividends

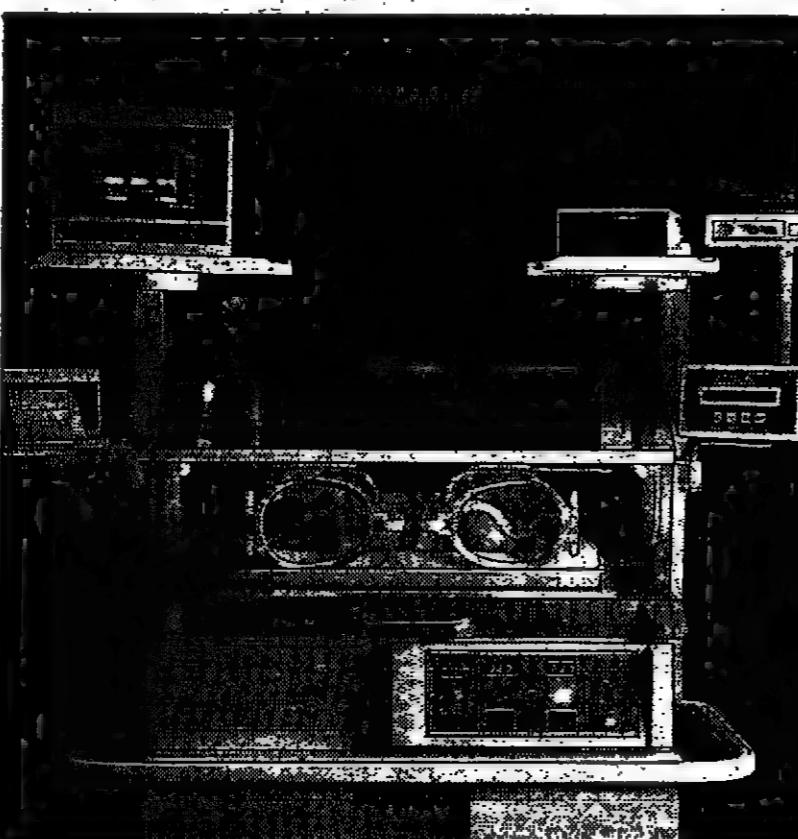
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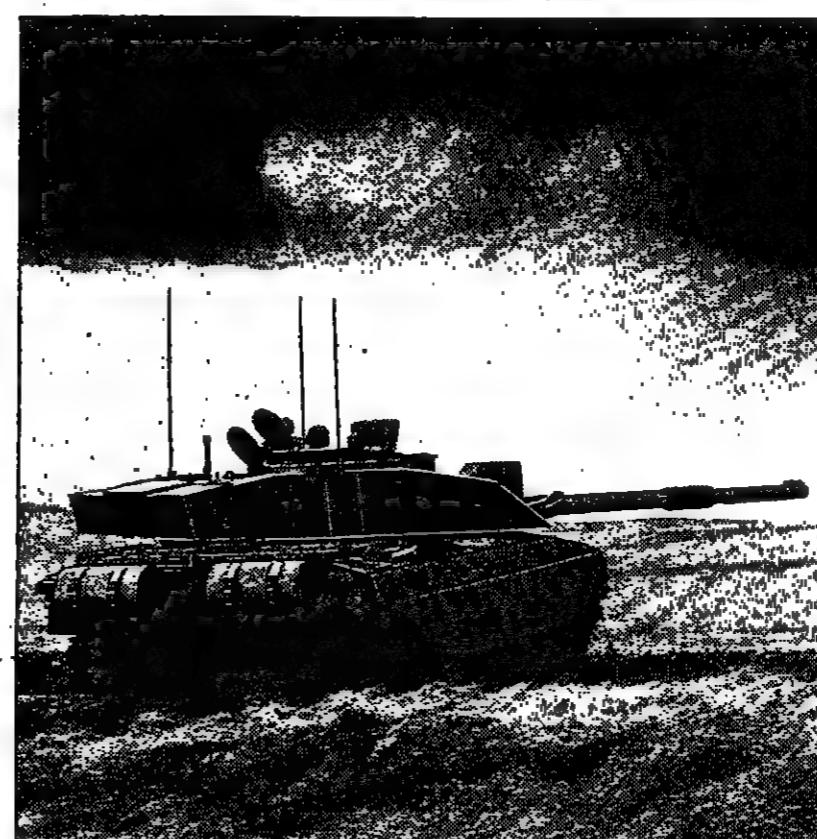
The Company car.



The Company jet.



The Company health check.



The Company think tank.

At Vickers, we believe the quality of a company's products tells you something about the quality of its management.

Our products are an example of a successful management approach which brings added value and mutual benefit to Vickers and all its operating businesses.

We build the Rolls-Royce motor car - a universal byword for excellence.

Our recently-acquired subsidiary Cantieri Riva makes luxury powerboats which enjoy the same sort of reputation among the discriminating and the nautically-inclined.

Our marine interests include some of the most sophisticated civilian and defence engineering manufacturers in the world, including Sweden's KaMeWa, which provided the water jets for the Atlantic record-breaker Gentry Eagle.

Our Medical Division is the world leader in baby incubators as well as producing patient monitoring systems and diagnostic equipment. All fields in which quality of design and manufacture can often be - quite literally - matters of life or death.

Our aerospace components operations are among the tiny handful of companies in the world

equipped to create and shape the super-alloys on which modern aircraft engines depend.

And our Defence Systems Division, which numbers eighteen countries among its customers, is currently demonstrating Challenger 2 - the most advanced main battle tank in the world.

Vickers has established itself as a world leader in quality engineering through its strategy of building international businesses which have strong brands and premium products. But does our financial performance measure up to the quality of our products?

Judge for yourself.

Over the past six years, our pre-tax profits have grown steadily from £19.5 million to £83.6 million.

Earnings per share have risen with much the same consistency from 5.6p to 23.3p, a compound annual growth rate of 27%.

And the future looks no less encouraging.

In an increasingly volatile business environment, there's no safeguard more effective than having - and being recognised as having - the highest standards in the market.

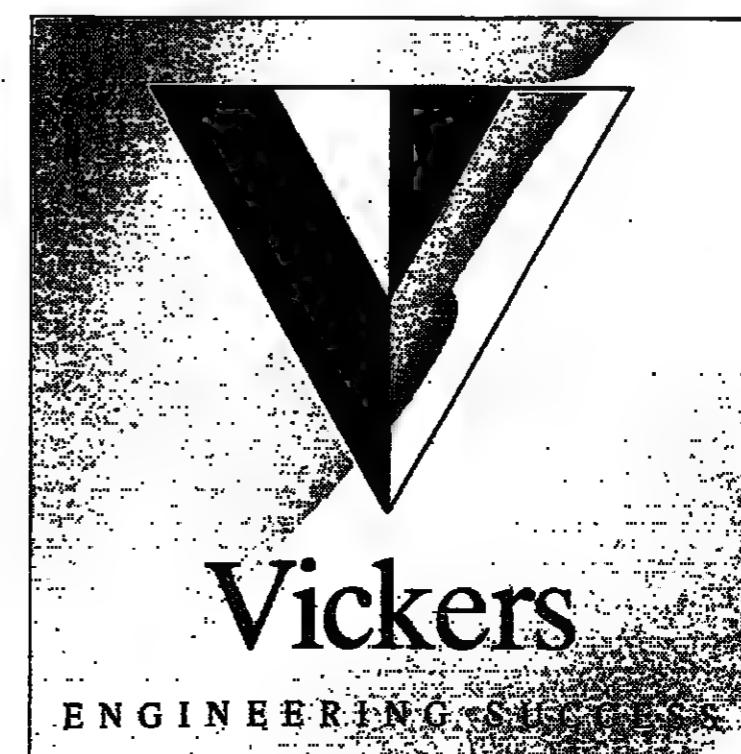
Behind this confidence lies a single-minded and continuing commitment to investing in a balanced

range of companies where the Vickers expertise, resources and philosophy of product excellence can maximise customer satisfaction, career opportunities and shareholder value.

It's an unashamedly traditional, painstaking business philosophy.

But when it comes to creating lasting success, as opposed to short-term gains, can you think of a better approach?

The Company.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNLISTED SECURITIES

		INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
39	31	Crated Electronics	14								
40	32	Dolgen Corp	15								
41	33	Colorprint	16								
42	34	Colorvision	17								
43	35	Coat Developers	18								
44	36	Comex	19								
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FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 86.7 (day's range 85.5-86.7).
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES **OTHER STERLING RATES**

17
ge Close 1 month 3 months

MONEY MARKET

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %									
		7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	5 yrs
Currency									
Dollar		5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%	5% ^{1/2} -6%
Canl		5% ^{1/2} -7%							
Deutschmark		7% ^{1/2} -12%		8% ^{1/2}	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2}			
Canl		8-9							
French Franc		10% ^{1/2}	10-10% ^{1/2}	10% ^{1/2} -11%					
Canl		10% ^{1/2} -11%							
Swiss Franc		8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%	8% ^{1/2} -9%
Canl		8% ^{1/2} -9%							

week 15-14% 1 ratio: 15-14%^{1/2} 3 min: 15^{1/2}-14%
 nth: 15%-15%^{1/2} 9 ratio: 15^{1/2}-15%^{1/2} 12 min: 15^{1/2}-15%^{1/2}

Local Authority Deposits (%)		GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)		
2 day:	14%	7 day:	14%	
3 month:	15%	6 month:	15%	
1 year:	15%	12 month:	15%	
Sterling CDs (%)		1 year:	14% ^{1/2} -15%	
3 month:	15% ^{1/2} -16%	6 month:	15% ^{1/2} -16%	
Dollar CDs Pct:	1 month:	8.33-8.28	12 month:	15% ^{1/2} -16%
3 month:	8.40-8.56	6 month:	8.50-8.45	
Buitling Society CDs (%)		12 month:	8.73-8.68	
1 month:	14% ^{1/2} -14%	2 month:	15%-15%	
6 month:	15% ^{1/2} -15%	3 month:	15% ^{1/2} -15%	
8 month:	15% ^{1/2} -15%	12 month:	15%-15%	
		5 years:	15% ^{1/2} -16%	

PRECIOUS METALS
Platinum per troy oz. \$478.25 (E204.25)
Paladium per troy oz. \$129.50 (H79.05)

SE 100		Previous open interest 184500			Three months ECU			Previous	
200	2240.0	2250.0	2227.0	2231.0	2387	Jun 90	50.30	50.30	50.30
00	NT	—	—	2271.0	0	Jul 90	50.35	50.35	50.35

See Month Euro DM Previous open interest

102

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

CHARTLEIGH
AppointmentsCENTRAL INFORMATION SERVICES SECRETARY
£12,800

1 year ideal environment involved co-ordinating and initiating a well-balanced day, then you are just one of London's major accountancy and architecture companies as part of a hectic team. Formulate and collate project reports, type detailed and figurative documentation, produce graphs and charts! If you are highly motivated and crave continuous professional stimulation then call now. Ref: 58/04.

MOORGATE 01-638-7003

SENIOR SUPERVISOR
£18,000

One of Britain's major financial organisations looking for someone with a legal background to fill this team, as well as fulfilling their own demands. Ref: 58/04.

Ref: PV/C2

HOLBORN 01-220-2291

FOUR WEEKS HOLIDAY
£25,250

Sound spot! This is an absolutely perfect position working on a one-to-one basis in an international company. Working for the Senior Director you will become really involved in the day to day running of the office, as well as liaison with clients both nationally and internationally, arranging appointments and meetings, deal with any queries during your absence, provide full back-up in the Directors wing. Good shorthand and typing required. Ref: LMC/C.

OXFORD CIRCUS 01-255-3140

PROGRAMME YOUR FUTURE
£25,000

This prestigious computer consultancy need a programme analyst to assist their product and technical support teams. Knowledge of Cobol and Unix is advantageous. Your initiative and the ability to work under pressure are key aspects in securing this valuable role. Excellent prospects with this company. Ref: AM/CA.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 01-225-1777

PA TO MD
£14,000

This small, advertising graduate company needs YOU to look after their dynamic young MD. Get completely involved in typing highly private and confidential material, all daily correspondence and occasional travel. Every day. A satisfying position for a proficient PA with excellent secretarial, administrative and communication skills. Ref: MU/1984.

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD 01-734-5675

KEEP FIT
£13,500

You need to be fit for this position as Personal Secretary to the Vice President of the American company - so they provide the gym (and the last). Your boss permanently has it packed as he travels extensively - you'll need to be able to cope in his absence. A challenging job for a busy lifestyle. Ref: JD/8864.

VICTORIA 01-828-6004

Why thumb the pages
for temp jobs
when we've got them
at our fingertips?

Finding temporary work needn't be a permanent headache.

At Brook Street we've got all sorts of openings to choose from.

For both men and women.

We'll find the job that most suits you.

With pay that suits you.

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BROOK STREET
THE BEST PLACEMENT AGENCY

Basingstoke (026) 471242, Capital 01-323 3818.
Birmingham (021) 633 3888 Manchester (061) 228 6168

Modus Operandi

£18,000

A forward-thinking and ambitious self-starter is eagerly sought by our client, a small and recently-established specialist Consultancy. As Office Administrator/PA, you will enjoy organisational challenge and the opportunity to display your effective communication skills and administrative flair. A pro-active approach is vital, initially responsible for setting-up systems and providing PA support, you will also attend meetings; co-ordinate some recruitment and liaise directly with clients, suppliers, etc. Sound typing with WP literacy required. Age 25-35 with a flexible, committed approach! For an exceptional opening offering considerable self-advancement and involvement, call 01-993 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

MACKAY for Secretaries
OPEN TUESDAYS 'TIL 7PM

£24,000

Free lunch, IFSTL, Pension. Career opportunity exists within London's leading 5 star hotel to assist the dynamic General Manager. Become involved in projects, co-ordinate his hectic diary and provide full secretarial support. Shorthand essential. Call Glynn Ranger.

SHORTHAND SECRETARY

Prestigious International company based in Paddington requires an assistant to one of their senior directors. Organisational skills, plus extensive travel experience and provide secretarial support. What the pace can be hectic & demanding, there's a friendly team atmosphere. Call Barbara Fisher.

ADMIN SEC

If you thrive under pressure and love to organise then this fast moving international company and assist busy marketing team. This demanding but varied role has a high admin content, and involves much internal and external liaison. Typing essential. Call Barbara Fisher.

70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St. end) 01-491 0383

Our Fax No for CVs is 01-403 2553

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
£14K + MORT SUBS

Enjoy the buzz and fast pace of the City within this leading investment bank. You'll assist the international private clients desk and ensure the smooth running of their very busy office. Good organisational ability together with 80/80 skills needed.

Please telephone 01-3744 2 Bow Lane, London, EC4M 9EE

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Going, Going, Gone!
£12,000 + Exc Perks

Every six weeks an auction is held. Every six weeks hopefully a celebration! A unique opportunity to join one of London's leading international property firms as an Auctioneer's Secretary. Working with this young, wacky team the position involves lots of client liaison, attending the auctions, admin and typing correspondence (audio). If you possess a sense of humour and wish for an exciting and rewarding position, please call 01-323 3388.

VISA

City Careers
with Angela Mortimer Ltd

★ PERMANENT POSITIONS - PACKAGES UP TO £30,000 P.A.

★ TEMPORARY POSITIONS - RATES UP TO £9.00 PER HOUR

★ BLUE CHIP CITY CLIENTS

★ CAREER COUNSELLING

Angela Mortimer Ltd are established market leaders in the field of quality secretarial recruitment. We are currently seeking talented individuals of all ages for a wealth of Blue Chip companies based in the city. You must, of course, have good typing, word processing and preferably shorthand to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Our teams of highly trained professional consultants will evaluate your qualifications and skills and, taking into account your personal qualities and ambitions, you will receive advice on the best possible position and company to suit you.

For your next career move please contact:-

Tel: 01-726 8491 ANGELA MORTIMER LTD Fax: 01-796 4940
1-3 Frederick's Place
London EC2R 8HX

QUALITY
TEMPS

The agency you use says a lot about you, which is why our "Temporary Club" has grown consistently over the past ten years. If you've got first-class secretarial/WP skills and you'd like to join our team and experience top rates and quality service, call Tony Timmins on 01-629 7262.

GRADUATE
APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

PR PANACHE

£12,000 - £14,000

The dynamic MD of this world-wide PR consultancy needs a polished and professional PA to work totally alongside her. Client liaison is extensive and in her absence you will be truly holding the fort when dealing with their most prestigious and famous clients. You will also be responsible for all secretarial recruitment and in this senior role will be called upon to ensure personnel matters are under control. This is a key role demanding initiative, intelligence and excellent communication skills. If you possess the above with 50+ typing and 60-70wpm shorthand/ speedwriting call one of our MEDIA SPECIALISTS on 01-379 4164 or 379 0844 and speak.

MANPOWER
WP
SECRETARIES

Superb opportunities for shorthand/audio secretaries with experience of:

Samna

Dec-All-in-1

or

Wordperfect 4.2 + 5

Plus free cross training onto most of the major systems, and other benefits including holiday and bank holiday pay.

Please call us today on:

01-486 7865

Temporary and Permanent.

Manpower makes the difference.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Opportunity for a mature, capable person with computer experience to become the PA to the manager of a busy department handling public relations, publishing and marketing.

HEALTH POLICY/
CONFERENCES

PA required for manager of department handling conferences and seminars as well as health service policy. Enthusiastic and energetic person required, capable of taking responsibility for running a busy office. Word processing and shorthand skills desirable.

Non-smokers essential. Salaries negotiable.

CVs including references to Semeia Deloires at the Institute of Health Services Management, 75 Portland Place, London W1N 4AH, or telephone her for further details on 01-580 5041.

SECRETARY/PA

Salary c £11,500 pa

Our newly appointed Consultant in Clinical Biochemistry requires a Secretary/PA to coordinate and organise the administrative functions of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry.

The Department, which is part of this internationally renowned hospital specialising in research and treatment of heart and lung disease, is due to move to purpose-built facilities in the Autumn. The post would suit someone with excellent organisational skills who enjoys working on their own initiative.

Application form and job descriptions available from the Personnel Department, Royal Brompton and National Heart Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP. Telephone: 01-351 3891 (24 hour answerphone).

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

CITY £22,000 neg (package)

A 2nd PA with over 50 skills and secretarial experience for their Head of Department involved in marketing for existing City Co.

Professional age 25/26.

MAYFAIR £18,000 + Bonuses.

PA to 2nd Executive in prestigious co with worldwide involvement.

Exc SH skills, personality and drive for scrum/ organising post.

Age 24-25.

£18,000 + Bonuses.

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Age 24-25.

DRAKE PERSONNEL

Professional guidance and positive results!

PA IN PR

£14-£15,000

Young dynamic Finance Director requires team spirited assistant to help. A challenging and rewarding position using skills you never even knew you had in order to maintain his successful business. Good WP/Admin skills and a strong personality are extremely important.

Call Amanda Dobbs on 01-629 4031.

SECRETARY - RESEARCH

KNIGHTSBRIDGE - TO £10,000

Don't be tied to a desk! Get out and about on campus & meet people. This organization offers full training. WP working with executives in this cheerful set up. 45 years of typing, lots of initiative and organization skills. 30+ days hol. pa. Sports centre, travel loans, immediate non-con pension, sick. ret. + 2 increases pa. Good spelling and grammar please.

Call Anne Safford-Foster on 01-589 5998.

BOND STREET

01-629 4031

CITY

01-623 1226

FULHAM

£15,000+

Challenging and satisfying role as a Senior Secretary for two directors in an up-market software company. Daily shorthand and WP (Word-type), client liaison, international travel arrangements and meetings to be arranged. Modern business park with ample parking available.

Call Anne Safford-Foster on 01-589 5998.

MARKETING SEC

£15-£18,000

Your dynamic, personality & exec. org. skills will be valued by the Vice President of this fast expanding Int'l. based in SW1. Total involvement in all aspects of marketing & the top to travel, being confident, well-spoken, with superb presentation, you will enjoy working at all levels. A very small exec. contract (20% typ) using your ext. WP skills & only self.

Need a challenge?

Call Karen Miller on 01-534 0386.

SHORTHAND SEC

£12,500

A social club, P.P.P., LV, int. free STL and PC. Incentive is the benefit you receive whilst looking after a team of 3 key managers, in this young, busy Oil company. Excellent secretarial skills (Shorthand and WP), a good sense of humour and the ability to use your initiative will be the keys to your success.

Call Karen Miller on 01-534 0386.

RUN THE SHOW

SHEPHERDS BUSH £14,000

With your role as PA to the MD within this lucrative business of customer jewellery and accessories, you will be able to utilise your bookkeeping (Dual Balance) and WP skills in a position of responsibility, variety and total job satisfaction. The location is in a socialized area with parking and easy access to the rail network.

Call Richard Pinn on 01-534 9757.

BENEFITS -- YOU BET!

£13,000

Make the move into this Financial Services organization! The busy applicant will be qualified in O/L level English & Maths with secretarial skills including shorthand, typing, previously used with a finance organization. Benefits include: First lesson, 3 course fees, sub. fee, REST, staff discounts, share & bonus scheme. An opportunity not to be missed!

Call Debbie Thrill on 01-534 6252.

WEST END

01-734 6911

OPPORTUNITIES IN PERSONNEL

We have excellent opportunities for secretaries interested in gaining experience in the field of personnel.

PA to Personnel Director

£14-15,000

This is a demanding role providing vital administrative and secretarial support to the Director of Personnel. In addition to first class secretarial skills including shorthand, you should have the confidence and flair to liaise with senior people both within the council and externally.

You should have a flexible and committed approach and be willing to work on your own initiative. Ref: AL81.

Secretaries

£12-13,000

Working in a Personnel team your main duties will include confidential typing and general administrative duties.

You should have good all-round secretarial skills (shorthand not necessary). Ref: AL82.

In addition to an attractive salary with a twice-yearly bonus, free health insurance, flexible hours, good holidays and subsidised lunches, we offer a friendly working environment, with the latest technology, located close to Kensington High Street.

To apply call Karen Allman on 01-937 9036 (fax: 01-937 8612) today up to 8pm to arrange an immediate interview quoting the appropriate reference.

We are an equal opportunity employer.



The Town Hall
Hornton Street
London W8 7NZ

MAGAZINE PUBLISHING

£11,500

This prestigious West End publishing house is looking for a capable, mature PA to work for their Director of Subscriptions. Apart from the normal PA duties and general running of the office there will be a variety of projects for which you will be sole responsible. You will deal with a mixture of telephone calls from readers, manage any distribution problems, check copy and liaise with your colleagues working on all of the titles the company publishes. Run shorthand and type of 50 wpm (ideally over 25 wpm) call Sue or Daniel for more information/interview.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY RECRUITMENT

Sales 314, Bedford Chambers, North Finchley, Crouch End, London WC2



01 589 8807
JOYCE GUINNESS RECRUITMENT

FAMOUS CHARITY

£12,500

Excellent opportunity to become very involved with this well known charity (with Royal connections) who constantly feature in the press and are well known throughout the over seas community. Working as PA to the Director of Finance you will be a valuable member of their team, valuable experience you will have, regularly with their regional co-ordinators, compose correspondence, organise a hectic schedule of meetings and undertake a variety of administrative tasks. First rate interpersonal skills plus good shorthand and typing of 50 wpm (ideally over 25 wpm) call Sue or Daniel for more information/interview.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY RECRUITMENT

Sales 314, Bedford Chambers, North Finchley, Crouch End, London WC2



£21,000

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

This young Managing Director of a well known Investment Bank in the City is looking for a top notch PA/Sec. You will be completely involved, his life and his office as well as running his business and the rest of the company. Excellent communication and organisational skills as well as fluent German essential. Generous benefits, helpful, friendly working, good and friendly atmosphere. Starts May 30th Age 24-30

217,000

WEST END CONSULTANTS

Our client a small but highly prestigious firm of consultants with strong offices in Mayfair are looking for two dynamic PA/Secretaries to work at senior level. Lots of liaison at VIP level, including of confidential information and organising meetings in the job. You must enjoy being truly involved, have tons of energy and be very well presented. Good all round secretarial skills, experience in European language, especially French would be helpful. Starts 30/5 + ends April 24-30

FASHION AND PR

£2,800-212,000

Are you a bright and bubbly but responsible young secretary or receptionist? We have lots of companies to Fashion, Public Relations, Property, Advertising and Events Catering who have full and varied jobs for young people. Good presentation and 40+ hours typing needed.

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm LONDON

PA to Chief Executive

Up to £14,700

Pay Award Pending

A unique opportunity for an experienced, organised PA/Administrator to play an active part in our senior management team by providing full secretarial support to the Secretary Registrar and the President.

The successful candidate will possess excellent shorthand, keyboard and word processing skills, together with the commitment and initiative to enjoy a dynamic role. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are equally essential for this top level post. Previous experience in committee work (including minute taking) would be an advantage.

Benefits are extensive and include 25 days holiday, flexi-time, subsidised staff restaurant and contributory pension scheme. For an application form please write or telephone, quoting job reference JF/1, to Vivienne March, Personnel Manager. Answerphone available. Closing date for applications: 3 May 1990. Smoking is actively discouraged.

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
1 Lambeth High Street
London SE1 7JN
Telephone 01-735 8141 ext. 373

Elite Reception

£11,000 - £14,000

Many of our high profile, immensely successful clients in Fashion, Retail, PR, Management Consulting, Advertising, PR and the Legal and Art worlds are currently seeking polished, professional individuals to play leading roles in the smooth running of their busy Reception areas. Being the very first point of contact for many of their VIP clients, they are seeking PR-oriented "diplomats" who combine effective communication skills with poise, charm and a cheerful disposition. Some positions need typing, many don't. Both City and West End locations. For details, telephone us in confidence, on 01-493 578.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

SECRETARY £14,000

A highly successful and progressive Financial Company based in the City, now has an excellent opportunity for a confident and energetic individual.

A key member of a busy administrative team, you'll essentially be providing secretarial support to the Senior Partner and other members of his team.

With at least 2 years' experience, ideally gained in a fast-moving environment, you'll have sound secretarial skills (60/50) and auto, together with a good general standard of education. The ability to work effectively under pressure and on your own initiative is essential, along with good communication and presentation skills.

In return for your enthusiasm and commitment, you'll receive a great salary and benefits, plus all the scope you need to develop your potential.

Age 22+

City Office. Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

Recruitment Consultants



Personnel Administrator £15,000

A great opportunity to join Personnel if you have a solid secretarial background. Good organisation and administrative skills are essential. Good packages and prospects.

Direct Marketing PA £12,000

PA required for Direct Marketing subsidiary of large W1 advertising agency. Good communication and organisational skills to handle a variety of packages needed to fit the London based Publishing House. Excellent prospects.

Call Anne-Marie or Zena.

For more information on these and many other vacancies call 031 9411 A&B Recruitment

17 Gate Street, London WC2A 3HR

Small Pharmaceutical Company Secretary

circa £11,000

Our young Pharmaceutical company is looking for a competent and enthusiastic secretary. You will work within a small team to provide a comprehensive service to the Company's Management, Research staff and potential investors for the development of new pharmaceuticals.

Identify candidates will have a proven record with at least two years' experience. Knowledge of M.S. Word and experience of a computerised environment would be beneficial.

If you feel you would enjoy working within this busy and vibrant environment, then call 01-943 1998.

Please contact Janis Kennedy, Tel: 01-943 1998 (Fax: 01-943 1999) for an interview. All interviews will take place on 30 April - 2 May. Applications are therefore invited by 26 April 1990.

TELEVISION

c. £13,500

Dynastic, progressive TV company with a young and lively atmosphere, looking for a dynamic and energetic new member of staff. Previous experience in television is not essential, but a good knowledge of television, including its language, is essential.

Good communication and organisational skills are essential. Good packages and prospects.

Call Anne-Marie or Zena.

For more information on these and many other vacancies call 031 9411 A&B Recruitment

17 Gate Street, London WC2A 3HR

REALISE YOUR POTENTIAL

Are you a secretary whose skills and potential are not being realised?

We are a progressive firm of Construction Consultants situated in Victoria and we require a secretary 25+ with excellent skills to take a step up in their career.

Wordstar and DTP experience preferred but not essential.

Salary circa £21,500 + benefits

Apply with full C.V. to:

Am Dyer

Bedrock Partners

Construction Consultants

27 Ecclesall Square

London, SW1W 9PN

(NO AGENCIES)

ARTS SPONSORSHIP

c. £14,000

World renowned Arts Organisation needs PA to work closely with highly specialised Director of Marketing, Events, Sponsorship and Press. Good communication and organisational skills will be essential. Involvement in the arts and the arts world is a must. You need skills of 60/60, be a confident organizer and eager to take the initiative as part of an international team.

Call Lynn Lait on 0865 651 at ZAR-4K Rec. Cons.

Pansophic Systems Europe Ltd

is an international software company in Uxbridge, seeking two highly motivated and enthusiastic secretaries to support a multi-national sales team in a dynamic and professional environment.

Excellent skills and experience necessary.

Languages advantageous. Good salary and benefits.

Applications to: Parkside Recruitment

225 High Street

Uxbridge Middlesex

Tel: 0895 55007

Fax

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Maine-Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

GREAT EXPECTATIONS..... College Leaver

Circa £12,000 (brilliant perks & 16am Start!)

Have you high hopes for your first job? Do you want something really special? This company is also setting its hopes high and it's heart is set on a special College Leaver - could that be you? It won't necessarily be the person with the fastest speeds in the world, but someone who is earnest and sincere and keen to learn. From their beautiful offices in St James's, SW1 they create exquisite buildings and mastermind incredible promotional stunts to publicize them. This job will give you the confidence, and the training to go on to do Great things. If you have 80/45 & have Great Expectations call Caroline Sykes or Louise Tamm.

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-425 0548

Maine-Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

GET-UP AND GO £11,500 + 7 WEEKS HOLIDAY + AMAZING FREE LUNCHES

It's the Annual Extravaganza Ball... take to the dance floor, and let your hair down... everyone is enjoying themselves... and its all thanks to your inspired ideas... tomorrow you will be onto the next project, one of many grand dinners, always with a fascinating Speaker, or perhaps an exhibition, dash about with your bright spark of a boss who has every good reason to be proud of a charismatic and vibrant Assistant. No two days are ever the same, the work is an exciting challenge - you are constantly co-ordinating lots of young lively people AND all you need to seize this fabulous opportunity is 45wpm typing and boundless enthusiasm!

50 Pall Mall St. James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-425 0548

GOOD COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS? GET IN TOUCH

Do you have the ability to communicate well at senior level? A major City Insurance Brokers need an experienced and confident secretary to work for the Legal Advisor in superb offices overlooking the Tower of London.

As well as your direct responsibilities you will find plenty of involvement working as part of the team within the legal section.

Attention to detail, reliability and good presentation should complement your excellent shorthand and typing skills (70/50) including audio and W.P. (preferably Wang, IBM).

A salary of £15,000 plus benefits including free lunches & sports club facilities will be offered to the right person. (Ideally under 40).

Senior Secretaries

Lawrence House, 3-6 Trump Street, London EC2V 8DA

01-606 1611

(Fax: 01-600 0590)

Recruitment Consultants

**£17,000 -
£18,000++**

PA to Chairman

As PA/Sec to high flying and influential Chairman of prestigious Corporate Finance Co. you will have Director level experience, be well educated and presented, articulate, dynamic and used to working under pressure. City experience useful. An excellent opportunity for responsibility and involvement.

Age 24-28

Skills: 80/55

**HANOVER
SQUARE
01-408 1461**

ANGELA MORTIMER

**DE2000
SPECTACULAR**

- £10,000 -
- 25,000

With this high profile, high potential opportunity up-market Design Consultants, you will be involved in the design of a major new office building, with extensive computer facilities and state of the art presentation.

Skills: 80/55

PA/SECRETARY

- £10,000 -
- 25,000

Small Marketing team within successful Co seek confident and outgoing secretary to work for busy Director. This position would suit an ambitious, committed 2nd jobber with good typing.

Director. This position would suit an ambitious, committed 2nd jobber with good typing.

Skills: 80/55

PA/SECRETARY

- £10,000 -
- 25,000

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Millions poured into waterways

Watertide locations are as attractive to companies seeking commercial property as it is to home-buyers, a fact recognized by the Central Manchester Development Corporation, whose land in the centre of the city is threaded by an extensive canal and river system, albeit neglected for years.

The corporation intends to unlock the watertide development potential by spending about £2.5 million over the next 18 months on cleaning and maintenance. Of this, £1.8 million will be spent on dredging and canal repairs and the remainder on landscaping, new towpaths and lighting.

Already the corporation has spent £200,000 on refurbishing the Rochdale Canal, including replacing a huge water plug.

Many other projects are in progress or planned. Next September, work on the £5.5 million refurbishment of Lee House, a Grade II listed building overlooking the Great Bridgewater Canal, will be completed to give 107,000sq ft of office space. June will see the completion of the Castilefield Hotel, which overlooks the canal basin.

To the east of the city centre, formerly the heartland of industrial Manchester, the first phase of the £10.5 million Piccadilly Village scheme is nearing comple-

Manchester's canal network is being smartened up to take ambitious new developments

tion. Set on the banks of the Ashton Canal, it will include 125 houses and flats, 15 craft studios, shops and 16,000sq ft of new office space. The development, on a six-acre site of derelict and under-used land, is a joint venture between Trafford Park Estates and Moran Holdings.

Alongside the Ashton Canal Basin, Avatar, the property development company established by London and Edinburgh Trust and Balfour Beatty, is refurbishing the Grade II listed Ducie Street warehouse. This will create 140,000sq ft of studio/office accommodation. A floating crèche forms part of the scheme.

One of the most ambitious projects is the £100 million scheme at Piccadilly Harbour by the Rochdale Canal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Town Centre Securities. On a 12-acre site surrounding the Rochdale Canal, stretching from Great Ancoats Street to Piccadilly Sta-

tion. Set on the banks of the Ashton Canal, it will include 125 houses and flats, 15 craft studios, shops and 16,000sq ft of new office space. The development, on a six-acre site of derelict and under-used land, is a joint venture between Trafford Park Estates and Moran Holdings.

Another imaginative scheme is at the Victoria & Albert warehouses overlooking the River Irwell, where the Granada group is to turn the old Grade II listed buildings into a 130-bedroom hotel with a conference and function centre.

At Castle Quay, the Manchester Ship Canal Company is planning a £25 million mixed development comprising a refurbished early Victorian cotton warehouse and new construction for a largely retail and leisure scheme.

The company is also to start work shortly on the first phase of a mixed office, residential, retail and leisure scheme on its 37-acre island site at Pomona Strand, on the fringes of Salford Quays.

The £100 million development is the largest single scheme in the North-West, and will provide 940,000sq ft, including about 474,000sq ft of offices and shops. It has been designed in the style of Amsterdam and Copenhagen, featuring tall, narrow buildings, and will have a light rapid transport system.



Taking the drain strain: John Giesler (left), chief executive of Central Manchester Development Corporation, and David Perry, director of the Rochdale Canal Company, pull the plug to empty the Rochdale Canal during refurbishment work



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ATHLETICS

Failures in Boston open up selection for marathon men

From David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, Boston

THE failure of Steve Jones and Dave Long to distinguish themselves in the Boston Marathon on Monday has probably cleared the way for three British men in the ADT London Marathon this weekend to secure European championship selection with no more than moderate performances — around 2hr 1min or 2hr 12min. The unexpected entry into the equation is Geoff Smith, twice a Boston winner and a 1984 Olympian who made something of a comeback in the world's oldest annual marathon.

Smith was seventh in Boston in 2hr 13min 38sec. "It was a bit of a shock," he said. "I really didn't think I would finish so high." After two years in which his performances have been hampered by glandular fever, he has been back in full training for only seven months. Suddenly his confidence has been bolstered. "I can definitely run 2hr 9min again," he said.

If a man of 42 can run 2hr

9min 8sec, remains his best. "I have not had many race directors on the phone lately, but I may get a few calls now," Smith said. It is doubtful one will be from the British selectors, though the resident of East Freetown, Massachusetts added: "If they pick me I will run, but I don't think they will. After all, it's only 2:13 I ran."

Only 2:13 may prove beyond three British men in

London, as it has on more than one occasion in the past.

The domestic entry for Sunday's race does not look especially strong. If three British athletes fail to beat Smith's time, there may be hope for Jones, who failed to finish in Boston but was fourth in the Commonwealth Games in 2hr 12min 44sec.

Although the European qualifying standards must be set after March 1 for most events, the marathon is an exception and the selectors may feel that Jones would have a better claim.

The one British marathon runner sure of a place is Veronique Marot. Her 2hr 31min 03sec in Boston was her fastest in three attempts since she set a British best of 2hr 25min 56sec in London last year. Two days before the race she said: "I need to show that I am not dead and buried. People will soon forget I ran 2:25 if I keep running 2:36." She has been troubled for some months by shin splints but now has the problem under control.

Aged 34, she said that she did not expect to continue as a serious marathon runner much beyond the 1992 Olympics. "I would like to have a shot at a medal at the next three championships [European, world and Olympics] but I work full-time as a solicitor and I am not prepared to put 100 per cent of my life into running."

Veteran racing has become a profitable business as Campbell discovered when he won \$38,000, about half in awards to those in the over 40 age group. His name is in the Kent record books, too, the only man to win four county league cross country races in a season.

Anne Roden, aged 43, was so contemptuous of England's decision to leave her out of the Commonwealth Games team as to assume, after winning the women's veterans' section, that she is not a favoured runner and, come what may, she will not be considered for Split. She was 24 seconds inside the 2hr 40min qualifying time imposed by Britain for selection.

The British women's entry for London is weak but not so weak, one hopes, for it to be necessary to be looking at 2hr 39min for selection.

Staines is ready to step into limelight

By a Special Correspondent

FROM the broad shadow cast by the Tyne Bridge, Gary Staines may at last emerge into the spotlight of British 5,000 metres running tonight.

The shade has become a second home to the 26-year-old Belgrave Harrier since 1987, when he returned from a training sabbatical in Australia to make his senior international debut at the distance. Second in the AAA championship final that summer, Staines's potential as a major champion seemed media with remarkable consistency.

Third-best in the Olympic final in Seoul, Staines decided to try his luck at 10,000 metres running last year and missed the Commonwealth Games bronze medal by less than a second in Auckland, finishing fourth behind Eamonn Martin.

Tonight, in the General Portfolio 5,000 metres road race at Newcastle, Martin is likely to be the rival Staines must overcome to lay a solid foundation for a summer season in which his solo is a European champion.

Staines saw Martin's familiar shadow creep ahead of him at the end of an eight-kilometre cross country race in Bubba last month, but has since discovered

the rest of the 36-man field, he fears the finishing speed of Robert Denmark, the Gateshead Harrier and national indoor 3,000 metres champion, more than the presence of Andrew Lloyd, the Commonwealth 5,000 metres champion from Australia, and Jens-Peter Herold, the East German who snatched the Olympic 1,500 metres bronze medal from Steve Cram in Seoul.

Eli van Hulst, the Dutch woman who won the European indoor 3,000 metres title in Glasgow last month, has broken a spell of warm weather training in Portugal to compete in the women's 3,000 metres race tonight. Domestic opposition will be provided by Christina Cahill, of Gateshead Harriers, the Commonwealth 1,500 metres silver medalist, and Andrea Wallace of Torbay, the winner of the world cross country team trial in Glasgow last month.

GOLF

Rafferty suffers in silence

From John Heaney, Cannes

RONAN Rafferty did his best to dispel a doubt he had expressed before the start of the Critic Lytton Open last Friday. He then questioned the wisdom of embarking on a tournament in Europe, the week after competing in an American major, in this case the Masters.

A five at the 18th on the Mourne Country Club course, surely one of the least demanding closing holes on the Volvo European Tour, since it requires no more than a drive and wedge, denied him a share of the lead and the chance of a victory in a play-off against Mark McNulty of Zimbabwe.

Ian Woosnam, his Ryder Cup colleague on the other hand, would subscribe to Rafferty's

regarding as the spectacle of the season, the Evin International tournament to be held at The Orchard sports centre, Anerley, south-east London, on Saturday and Sunday, involves 160 matches on nine adjacent courts.

Progressing from mini-leagues to play-offs, semi-final and final, the competition is divided into seniors, with 51 entrants, and under-21, to be contested by 46 teams.

Birmingham, winners of last year's League, did the double by winning the senior section, an achievement which Bedfordshire are keen to emulate. Yet with tournaments matches only nine minutes each way nothing is predictable.

Whoever the winners, Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of the All England Netball Association (AENA), is confident the weekend will prove enjoyable. "It should be a real festival of netball," she said. "The competition is intense, but with everyone staying in London it is also very social." The AENA's under-21 competition, the senior counterparts by claiming the PES under-21 county championship.

Sheila Redpath, an administrator at the AENA's headquarters in London, will arrive in New Zealand today to umpire the Milo international series against Jamaica.

ICE HOCKEY

Devils' feats recognized for all stars

THE success of Cardiff Devils is reflected in the premier division as the all-star team, selected by the British Ice Hockey Writers' Association (Norman de Mesquita writes). The team includes the Devils players Jeff Smith, Stephen Cooper, Stanhope Hope and Steve Morris.

Stanhope Hope, who is named coach of the year and Morris player of the year, Cooper is named as the winner of the Alan Webb Trophy, awarded to the best British defenceman.

Among the inductees to the British ice hockey hall of fame is the late Sir Arthur Elvin, who established the sport at Wembly in the mid-1930s.

Competition winner

DAVID Black, a 13-handicap member at Fingal Glen Golf Club, near Exeter, is the winner of The Times's competition for a place in the pro-am preceding the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth next month.

Mr Black, who lives at Burnards Field Road, Colyton, Devon, wins a place alongside a leading professional — a member of the British and Europe team that won the Ryder Cup

TABLE TENNIS

Chen must wait for four years

By Richard Eaton

THE Times Championship qualifier at the Stainborough point-to-point on Monday resulted in an easy win for Steven Charlton on Amy's Mystery, who went clear from three out to beat the even money favourite Thursday Man (John Beardsell) by a distance with Mike Sowerby on Fair Vicky, in third place.

Traditionally, the first bold strokes across the classic canvas are drawn at this meeting. And William Jarvis received encouragement for the chances of Contract Law in the 2,000 Guineas when Drums Sergeant had been beaten only a short head by the favourite, Zanoni, in the Keylock's publications Stakes. Contract Law has not been seen in public since chipping a bone in his knee last summer.

"After that I'm very hopeful indeed that I can get the colt ready for the Guineas," said the trainer, Michael Jarvis, delighted at having got off the mark for

Amy's Mystery upsets strong favourite in Times qualifier

Point-to-point
By Brian Beal

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Blitzkrieg too good for Kiichi

FOR the second day running, a grey chaser captured the big prize at Fairyhouse with Blitzkrieg making all the running to win the Power Gold Cup yesterday (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

He had been hampered when fifth to Commandante in the Aces Trophy at Cheltenham and now comfortably reversed the placings with Kiichi, who had been second in that event.

Royal Derby, who had won his two previous outings in England, made a bold attempt under 11st 12lb to lead from start to finish in the Ir20,000 Huzzar Handicap Hurdle but was beaten on the run-in by the lightweight Athy Sprint. This was the fourth win in a row for Athy Sprint.

At Fairyhouse this afternoon, Charlie Brooks runs both Søyempre and Bell Glass in the Ir20,000 Tattersalls Four-Year-Old Hurdle. Mark Dwyer partners Bell Glass, a winner three times on the Flat in France last year and narrowly beaten by Søyempre at Newbury.

Brooks also makes a strong attempt to win the Ir20,000 Tattersalls Novice Chase with All Jeff (Ben de Hagan), who on his latest outing at Sandown, gave 13lb and a six-length beating to the subsequent Liverpool winner Brandston.

• Martin Pipe's 6-1 double with Wainwright Way and Bradmore's Vision at Chepstow yesterday, following six winners at four meetings. Monday, Ir20,000 Wellington under 11st 12lb, the 185 mark and virtually assured of a double century for the second year running.

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Despite the many encouraging aspects of the tour to West Indies, England are still lacking quality players for key positions

Gooch's England on the right road

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Antigua

DEFEAT has an instantly demoralizing effect, even on miracle-workers. England are coming home a beaten team, just as was universally expected, and in the black and white world of professional sport, that will be judged a failure.

Detached reflection will show it as nothing of the sort. England's tour has been a triumph of organization over ordinariness, motivation over mediocrity. This week's memory is of two Test matches lost in seven days, which is surely unique. Time needs to heal the superficial wounds and show the patient in surprisingly good health.

This was an ordeal which might have had terminal consequences. Instead, England's spent 11 weeks chasing unthinkable victory and one week seeing it all slip away.

To put it in perspective, minds need to be cast back to last September. England had been swamped by Australia. Gower had gone and the accession of Gooch seemed unexciting. Debate focused on another Caribbean whitewash. Anyone commanding himself to a forecast of England going 1-0 ahead, being mugged in the act of making it 2-0, then losing the series to two late reversals, would have been the subject of derision. To my knowledge, no one was so foolish.

So England, even in defeat, have achieved immeasurably more than was likely or logical. In the words of the West Indies manager, Clive Lloyd, they have gained the self-belief to compete with the best. Indeed, they may very well have beaten the best but for one sickening moment which captured the paradoxes of the tour.

The credits must show that

Graham Gooch was director and floor manager of England's production. He also acted the lead role. This, remember, is the same man whose decision to return to the Caribbean represented a profound re-evaluation of his dark moods in 1986, when he was reclusive and resentful in the face of hostility over his South African past.

How ironical, then, that the pariahs of four years ago was being widely acclaimed and approved here, politics forgotten, when he was put out of the tour by the first West Indian to return to Test cricket after serving a ban for touring South Africa. When Ezra Moseley broke Gooch's hand, on the final day in Trinidad, he also broke England's hold on this series.

They were never the same force again and three more broken bones simply proved how luck runs with the wicket.

Gooch's agony, these past three weeks, has been more in the head than in the hand. Instead of being immortalized as the leader of a great sporting victory, history will now decree that he was simply the wounded overseer of a beaten team. It is unfair, of course, but Gooch's consolation is that the job is his for the summer ahead and for next winter's tour to Australia.

He has inspired quietly, setting his example as much in thorough training and preparation as in tactics and batting. His players have become disciples, their respect unlimited, and if they struggle to quantify what it is that Gooch does for them, this is just the mystique of leadership.

Until this tour, Micky Stewart's contracted period as England team manager had little to command it. Four out of five full series had been lost.

The credits must show that

FIFTH TEST (Kingston, Jamaica): West Indies 164 (A) 1 C Frasier 4 for 25 and 340 (C A Best 66; G C Small 4 for 58; D E Malcolm 4 for 77; England 264 (A) Lamb 100; A Taylor 57; G A Welsh 5 for 65) and 182 (A Taylor 118; G A Welsh 5 for 65). RECOMMENDED: Test (Georgetown, Guyana): West Indies 229 (C A Best 104; I V A Richards 70; G C Small 4 for 109 and 267 (D L Haynes 109; G C Small 4 for 74; D E Malcolm 4 for 120; England 229 (D E Malcolm 4 for 77; England 229 (G A Best 64; W Larkins 54; C E L Ambrose 4 for 85) and 120 for 5; Match drawn).

FOURTH TEST (Georgetown, Barbados): West Indies 229 (C A Best 104; I V A Richards 70; G C Small 4 for 109 and 267 (D L Haynes 109; G C Small 4 for 74; D E Malcolm 4 for 120; England 229 (D E Malcolm 4 for 77; England 229 (G A Best 64; W Larkins 54; C E L Ambrose 4 for 85) and 120 for 5; Match drawn).

THIRD TEST (Polo of Spain, Trinidad): West Indies 186 (A) 1 C Frasier 4 for 25 and 267 (C A Best 66; G C Small 4 for 58; D E Malcolm 4 for 77; England 229 (D E Malcolm 4 for 120; West Indies won by an innings and 32 runs).

FIFTH TEST (St John's, Antigua): England 188 (A) 1 C Frasier 4 for 25 and 267 (C A Best 66; G C Small 4 for 58; D E Malcolm 4 for 77; West Indies 446 (G C Small 149; D L Haynes 107; G C Small 4 for 74; D E Malcolm 4 for 120; West Indies won by an innings and 32 runs).

without a single Test victory.

Only the one-off match with the Sri Lankans in 1988 had been won. The winning captain, one of five with whom Stewart had worked, was Gooch.

In Gooch, he has found a kindred spirit, one who believes that nothing comes easily and whose regard for style counts for little beside his desire to win. With Gooch, Stewart has reaffirmed his authority and consciously imposed some very un-English ideas. He has driven himself as hard as the players and the strain has sometimes shown.

He has directed training as a shouting, swearing sergeant major. He has refused even to acknowledge the past, much less wallow in it, as he preaches the message that England will never be great by being nice. Do unto them as they would do unto you, is his ethos. And if it has not always been palatable, especially in relation to slow play, it has brought a precious degree of success. It has also guaranteed Stewart his job.

Along with Gooch and Ted Dexter, Stewart chose a squad for this tour with specific strategies in mind. They were vindicated in many ways, just the mystique of leadership.

Until this tour, Micky Stewart's contracted period as England team manager had little to command it. Four out of five full series had been lost.

The credits must show that

FINAL TEST MATCH AVERAGES

England batting and fielding

	M	NO Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct	M	NO Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
A J Lamb	4	7	0	380	122	55.71	1	7	0	371	167	53.33	2	1
G A Gooch	2	7	2	128	100	18.29	1	2	5	1	125	25.00	118	1
W Larkins	4	8	1	176	52	37.20	1	2	5	0	306	44.00	1	1
A J Stewart	4	8	1	170	45	24.25	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
D E Malcolm	4	8	1	160	55	20.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
N Hussain	3	5	0	100	35	20.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
D J Capel	4	7	1	81	40	13.50	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
A R C Frasier	2	2	2	13	11	13.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
P A DeFreitas	2	2	2	12	42	12.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
D J Capel	2	2	2	12	24	12.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
D E Malcolm	4	6	3	17	12	5.00	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4
G C Small	4	6	1	17	8	3.40	1	1	4	1	176	42.00	1	4

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: E A Best, S B Patterson, 2, 0.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avgs	BB	100s	O	M	R	W	Avgs	BB	100s
A R C Frasier	7	11	19	161	11	14.63	5-29	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
G C Small	10	11	19	160	17	20.70	4-58	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
W Larkins	10	11	19	160	17	20.70	4-57	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
A J Stewart	9	18	1	151	125	30.33	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43	
D E Malcolm	8	10	2	157	17	22.82	4-57	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
N Hussain	8	10	2	158	17	22.82	4-57	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
D J Capel	8	10	2	158	17	22.82	4-57	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
P A DeFreitas	8	10	2	158	17	22.82	4-57	1	1	4	1	176	15.25	4-43
D J Capel	134	17	43	8	42.44	—	—	2	4	1	176	15.25	4-43	

• Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Source: TCCB/Ref

FINAL ENGLAND TOUR AVERAGES

Batting and fielding

	M	NO Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct	M	NO Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
G A Gooch	6	11	515	239	61.50	1	4	6	1	176	15.25	4-43	1	4
A J Lamb	7	12	549	132	47.56	1	2	7	0	371	167	53.33	2	1
W Larkins	8	15	524	154	37.45	1	2	8	0	306	44.00	1	1	
A J Stewart	8	18	518	125	30.33	1	1	9	0	306	44.00	1	1	
D E Malcolm	8	18	518	125	30.33	1	1	9	0	306	44.00	1	1	
N Hussain	8	18	518	125	30.33	1	1	9	0	306	44.00	1	1	
D J Capel	8	18	518	125	30.33	1	1	9	0	306	44.00	1	1	
P A DeFreitas	8	18	518	125	30.33	1	1	9	0	306	44.00	1	1	
D J Capel	134	17	43	8	42.44	—	—	2	4	1	176	15.25	4-43	

Source: TCCB/Ref

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: D G Best, 2, 0.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avgs	BB	100s

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key positions
Gooch
hidden
strength
revealed
Simpson
Barber

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 1990

FA asking for UEFA's view

From Peter Bell
Malta

WITH the return of English clubs to European competition next season still dependent on English football receiving a clean bill of health from the Government, the Football Association is to ask UEFA for an independent assessment of the behaviour of English supporters at the World Cup finals in Italy this summer.

This proposal, which will be put to the UEFA meetings taking place here this week, is part of a two-pronged attack to try to prevent the kind of instant judgements, based on misleading, and sometimes hysterical, reporting which occurred during the European championship finals in West Germany in 1988. As an attempt to stop the flow of misinformation at its source, the FA is also planning to set up a permanent 'hot line' for

news reporters at its headquarters in Cagliari this summer.

UEFA has already accepted the principle of English clubs returning to Europe next season, always subject to Government support. "If Mrs Thatcher or Mr Moynihan give the new executive committee a favourable answer on security, especially at the stadium, then perhaps the new committee would decide to allow the clubs back next season — the date already decided on by UEFA," Jacques Georges, the retiring president, confirmed on his arrival for the 20th congress, at which his successor will be appointed.

"The general consensus that everyone wants us back, and it has been for two to three years," Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, said last night. "That is quite general throughout UEFA and it was decided at the last congress that we should return."

"But on two conditions, that the English government guarantee the behaviour of the English fans abroad, and that there are no problems in Italy."

With the draw for the 1990-91 UEFA competitions due to take place only three days after the end of the World Cup finals, there will be little time for considered responses and the English football authorities are eager that any decision should be based in fact.

In 1988 the FA withdrew the application for the clubs' return after some misinformed reports of the behaviour of English supporters in West Germany, and particularly after trouble in Stuttgart following the defeat by the

Republic of Ireland. "I came under great pressure to withdraw England while the preliminary stage was still going on," Millichip recalled yesterday.

Yet the official UEFA report in general cleared the English supporters of responsibility for the trouble, but when the decision not to go ahead with the application for the clubs' return had already been taken by Millichip, many believing that the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, overreacted to newspaper headlines.

The FA hopes that the hotline will help to prevent such stories being filed in the first place. It will provide an up to date, accurate assessment of any trouble which may occur, with the Italian police, the World Cup organizers and the FA's security

officers all contributing to try and provide journalists with prompt and reliable information.

"The efforts we are making in co-operation with the Italian police means there is very little else we could do," Millichip says. "We have covered all avenues but the trouble is that the people who want to misbehave will probably be in Italy two months before hand and stay on for a month after the World Cup. What can we do about that?"

For the moment Millichip, however, said that the cup winners, League champions, and League runners-up should assume that they will be back in Europe next season, although clearly the likelihood of Liverpool winning the League makes an English entry in the European Cup problematic. There have been suggestions that the extra

three-year ban on Liverpool might be lifted and there is strong support for at least a lessening of the sentence, with the Italian delegation expressing its support yesterday.

That will not, however, be in time for Liverpool to take part next season. "The FA will apply for the ban on Liverpool to be relaxed," Millichip said, "and I confidently anticipate that an application to lessen the period of the ban will be sympathetically received but that cannot happen until after the return of English clubs is accomplished."

The main concern of this congress, however, will not be the future of English football, but the election of a new president. The two candidates are the chairman of the Swedish FA, Leamant Johansson, and the president of the Swiss FA, Freddy Rumo.

Arsenal keep jealous eye on silverware

By Louise Taylor

DESPITE the protestations of Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, that the allocation of an extra 12,000 tickets to Manchester United for the FA Cup final at Wembley on May 12 would give them an unfair advantage akin to a goal start, the FA yesterday confirmed the figure. (Dennis Signy writes). Palace will receive 14,000 tickets and United 26,000.

Almost 12 months since their 2-0 triumph on Merseyside in the final match last season snatched the silverware from Liverpool's grasp, Arsenal are well aware that the odds are again against them.

Liverpool, having had their hands pried off the FA Cup by Crystal Palace last week, will be reluctant to forego another trophy by losing to Arsenal before a live television audience this evening.

Liverpool's recent record in important matches is not particularly impressive. Defeats in the 1988 FA Cup final by Wimbledon, in last year's championship, decided by Arsenal, and in the FA Cup semi-final by Palace have led critics to suggest that Liverpool lose their nerve in the big matches.

they

are in the position they are, and not looking stronger.

Arsenal

have also failed to

translate possession and pressure into goals, and their last 10 matches have yielded only nine. George Graham, their manager, said: "It has been a very disappointing season overall, because we have not converted the chances we have had."

With Rocastle, Marwood and Richardson still unfit, Graham names the side which drew 1-1 at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

In the second division, Plymouth Argyle aim to reduce fears of relegation by seeing off Oldham Athletic, who hope to progress to the play-offs by making maximum use of their three games in hand on the leading pack.

Hendry reduced to narrow lead

By Steve Acteson

STEPHEN Hendry, after threatening to run away with his first-round Embassy world championship snooker encounter with the French-Canadian, Alain Robidoux, ended the opening period only 5-4 ahead yesterday at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. The match resumes this evening.

Hendry is not only seeking to supplant Steve Davis as both world champion and world No. 1, he is also hoping to supersede Alex Higgins as the youngest world champion. Robidoux, ranked 35th but on the fringe of a place in the top 16 next season, missed the final green twice to surrender the opening frame and two missed reds in the second were severely punished by Hendry's breaks of 35 and 83.

After taking frame three with a run of 32, Robidoux missed a marvellous chance to level at 2-2. Hendry missed a simple red, leading 56-47, Robidoux recovered to 56-47 behind, but when he missed the blue and went in-off.

Hendry's break of 54 put him 4-1 ahead but, after compiling a second half-century in the sixth to lead 57-32, Hendry jawed the last red and

Robidoux cleared to black with 33.

He followed this success with a brown-to-pink clearance to cut his deficit to one frame, Hendry responding with a break of 94 to move 5-3 ahead. In the last frame of the period, Robidoux, 58-49 behind, successfully snookered Hendry on the final brown and cleared to pink to cut the deficit to one.

A year ago Hendry was embroiled in another tense first-round match when Gary Wilkinson recovered from 7-3 behind before losing 10-9. Yesterday Wilkinson was threatening to repeat his heroics against John Virgo.

But after winning the first four frames to stand only one behind, Wilkinson snookered himself on the blue to lose the fourteenth frame, which proved his eventual undoing.

RESULTS First round (England unless otherwise stated): A (Chappell, 10-4) v Jones (Wales); B (Robidoux, 5-4) v (Sco) leads A (Robidoux (Can), 5-4) v (Sco); C (W) v (Sco); D (Morgan (Wales)) leads D (Morgan (Wales)) v (J. Johnson, 10-8).

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: 8pm: First round (rest of 18 frames): J White v D Fowler, to finish. Second round (best of 19 frames): J. Johnson v D. Morgan, 10-9; J. Johnson v G. Jones, first session. First round: S Hendry (Sco) v A. Robidoux (Can), to finish.

Hanley fitness worry

THE Great Britain Rugby League management has called for further specialist reports on Ellery Hanley and Martin Offiah before deciding whether the players are fit to take part in the summer tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand (Keith Macklin writes).

Hanley have already sent Hanley to a sports clinic in London, because of concern over his injury so close to the first round of the premiership.

PLAYERS First round (England unless otherwise stated): A (Kirkland v (Sco)) leads L (Castledore (Sco)) v (Wales) v Hull (Sco); Bradford Northern v St Helens (Wales); B (Warrington (Sco)) v (Salford (Sco)) leads A (Robidoux (Can), 5-4) v (Sco); C (Warrington (Sco)) v (Salford (Sco)) leads D (Morgan (Wales)) v (J. Johnson, 10-8).

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If the race organizers agree that the present IOR is sufficiently obsolescent to require a new restricted 60ft class, the same criteria must apply at max level 100.

La Poste, the last of the fifth-leg racers arrived at Fort Lauderdale yesterday, eight days behind Steinlager 2.

POSITIONS AFTER FIFTH STAGE: Maxi-Defender: 1. Steinlager 2 (D. Blaize, NZL), 117-120-12-2, France; 2. Payne (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 3. Merit (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 4. Rothmans (NL), 112-120-18 (NL), 120-120-12, France; 5. G. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 6. G. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 7. Fortune (J. de la Gorce, FRA), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 8. British Defender (G. Flock, IRL), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 9. UBF (Ireland), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 10. Fazil (121-04-39) (N. Nook, USA), 120-10-22-11, USA; 11. UBF (Ireland), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 12. NCA (Ireland), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 13. Steinlager 1 (H. Blaize, NZL), 121-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 14. Liverpool Enterprises (B. Smeeth, NZL), 121-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 15. D. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 16. L'Esprit de Liberte (J. de la Gorce, FRA), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 17. L'Esprit de Liberte (J. de la Gorce, FRA), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 18. T. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 19. Rothmans (NL), 112-120-18 (NL), 120-120-12, France; 20. G. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 21. G. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 22. G. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 23. 4. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 24. 5. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 25. 6. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 26. 7. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 27. 8. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 28. 9. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 29. 10. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 30. 11. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 31. 12. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 32. 13. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 33. 14. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 34. 15. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 35. 16. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 36. 17. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 37. 18. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 38. 19. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 39. 20. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 40. 21. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 41. 22. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 42. 23. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 43. 24. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 44. 25. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 45. 26. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 46. 27. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 47. 28. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 48. 29. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 49. 30. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 50. 31. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 51. 32. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 52. 33. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 53. 34. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 54. 35. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 55. 36. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 56. 37. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 57. 38. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 58. 39. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 59. 40. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 60. 41. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 61. 42. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 62. 43. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 63. 44. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 64. 45. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 65. 46. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 66. 47. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 67. 48. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 68. 49. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 69. 50. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 70. 51. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 71. 52. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 72. 53. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 73. 54. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 74. 55. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 75. 56. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 76. 57. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 77. 58. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 78. 59. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 79. 60. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 80. 61. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 81. 62. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 82. 63. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 83. 64. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 84. 65. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 85. 66. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 86. 67. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 87. 68. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 88. 69. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 89. 70. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France; 90. 71. (GB), 112-120-18 (GB), 120-120-12, France